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LIFE IN COREA



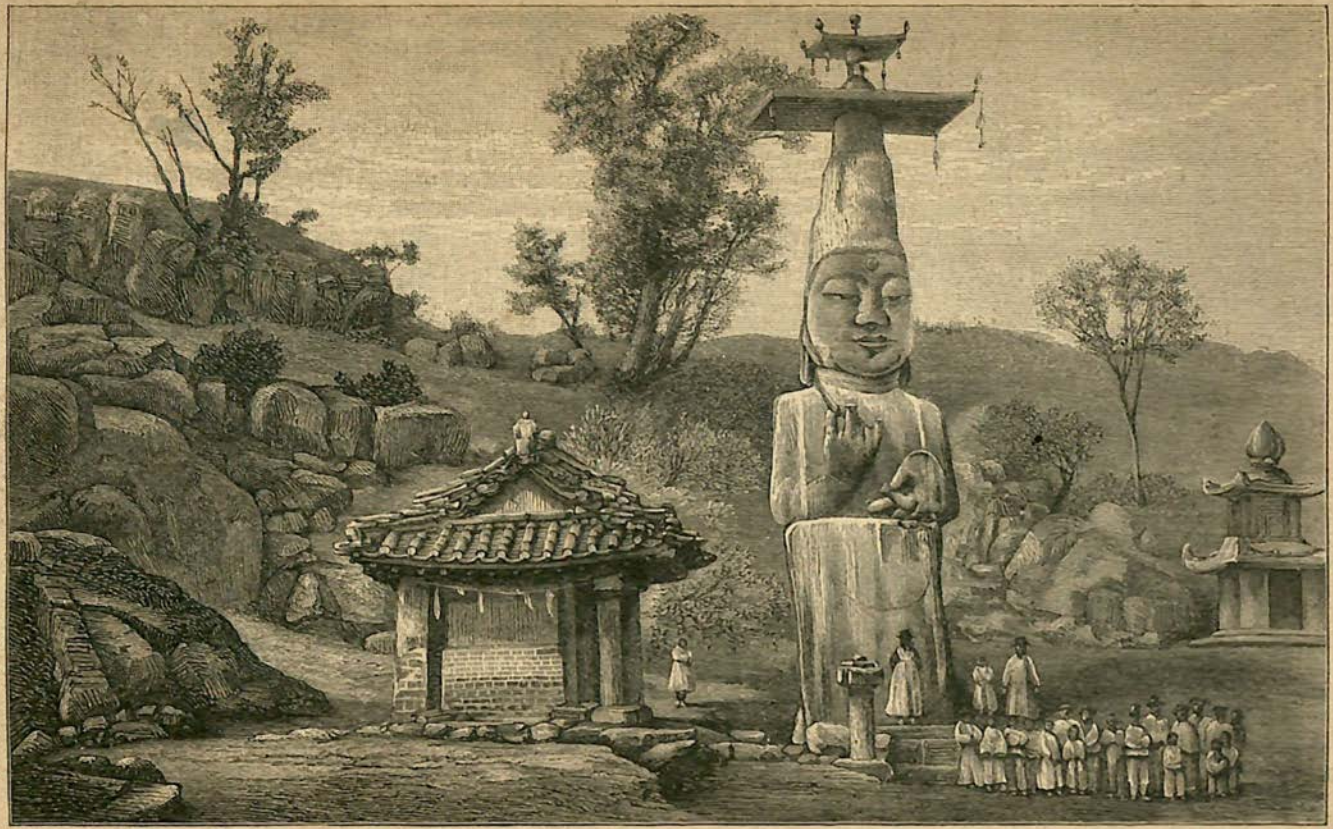


PHOTO OF UN-JIN MIRIOK.

LIFE IN COREA

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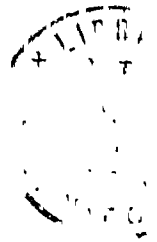
BY

W. R. CARLES, F.R.G.S.

H.M. VICE-CONSUL AT SHANGHAI

AND FORMERLY H.M. VICE-CONSUL IN COREA

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAP



London

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PREFACE

THOUGH Corea has only been opened to Europeans within the last few years, it by no means affords a new field for literature. In *Corea, the Hermit Nation*, which was written by Mr. Griffis in 1882, a very full account is given of the country drawn from sources the enumeration of which covers six pages.

Since that date much has been published by foreigners who have had access to the country. In official reports, in papers written for different magazines and learned societies, and in the newspapers, further light has been thrown on the Corean people and their customs.

Prominent among all that has been written are the narratives of Hendrik Hamel's *Unlucky Voyage and Imprisonment in Corea*, 1653-1667, and Père Dallet's *Histoire de l'Eglise de Corée*, which was published in 1874. Of these two works, which contain the personal experiences of the authors, the latter is especially noticeable, not only for its history

of the persecutions to which Christianity has been exposed in Corea, but for the accurate and detailed account which it gives of the life, government, and habits of the people and their rulers.

The present volume is founded on an acquaintance with Corea of only some eighteen months in duration, and its scope is confined to an attempt at a portrayal of my experiences during that short time. No attempt has been made to define the system of government, or the relations between the king and his nobles, the people and the serfs, except through the account of such incidents as passed under my own eyes.

The only exception consists in the short chapter devoted to the history of the murders and fighting which occurred in Soul in December 1884, at which time I was absent from Corea.

The illustrations are mostly reproductions of some paintings in sepia by a Corean artist at Gensan. For the photographs, and for much of the information contained in the book, I am indebted to Lieutenant G. C. Foulk, who was in charge of the United States Legation at Soul while I was there in the early part of 1885.

I have also to thank M. Kondo, the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires at Soul during the same period; Professor Terrien de la Couperie; Professor H. M. Moseley of Oxford; Mr, W. G. Aston, formerly Her

Majesty's Consul-General in Corea; and Mr. E. H. Parker, of Her Majesty's Consular Service in China, for the ready information which they have given me on those points on which I have consulted them. It is also no small debt that I owe to my old friend, Mr. W. C. Hillier, Her Majesty's Chinese Secretary at Peking, for undertaking to revise the proofs of these sheets during his short holiday in England.

Of the matter contained in this book some considerable portion has already appeared in Blue Books, in a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, and in the columns of the *Field*, but the objects with which the previous papers were written prevented their covering all the ground that is here surveyed.

While acknowledging the many shortcomings of this volume, I cherish the hope that it may serve to attract attention to Corea and give an interest in the people, whose language and customs appear to be well worthy of study by those who are interested in the diffusion of races.

W. R. C.

H. B. M. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
SHANGHAI, *July* 20, 1887.

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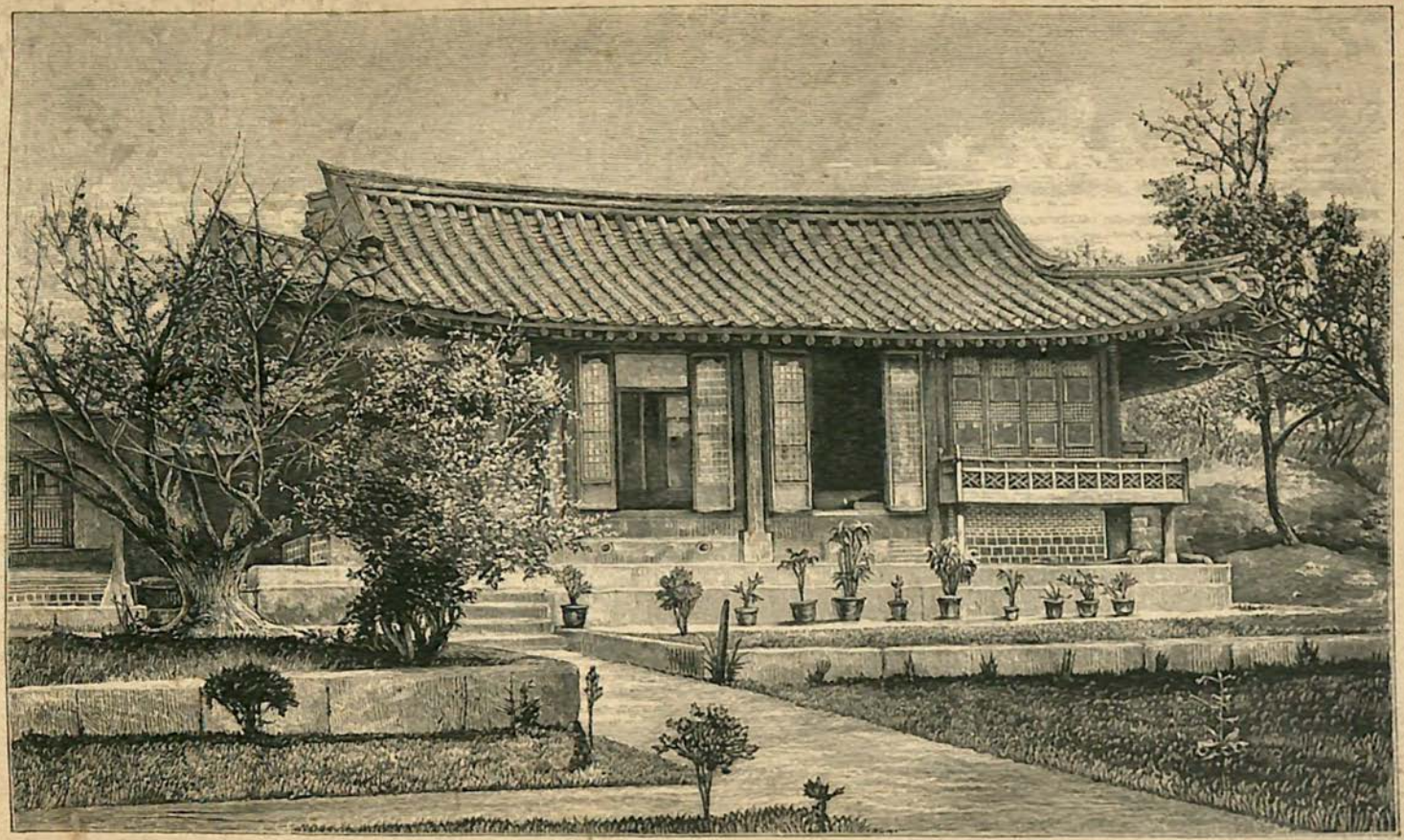


PHOTO OF CONSULATE-GENERAL, SOUL.

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SKETCH MAP OF
COREA
MANCHURIA
SHING KING
PHYONG AN DO
SEA OF
JAPAN
KOREA
BAY
HWANG HAI DO
KYONG KI DO
KANG WON DO
CHUNG CHHONG DO
CHUN LA DO
KYONG SANG DO
YELLOW
SEA
TSUSHIMA
STRAIT
OF
CORE
Longitude East from Greenwich

CHAPTER I

Coreans in Peking—Paper, timber, and ginseng their main exports—Collisions with France and the United States—Japanese Treaty with Corea—Reversal of old policy—Attack on Japanese Legation—A Treaty negotiated by Sir H. Parkes.

To any stranger newly arrived from Europe the streets of Peking present a sight in winter of immense interest, from the many components of the crowd which is constantly moving to and fro. Among the most prominent of the visitors to Peking are the Mongols, of whom there are always many representatives near the British Legation. Whether cantering their camels in order to show off their paces, or galloping their ponies, or seated in the midst of a miscellaneous assortment of frozen deer, sheep, salmon, and game brought from Manchuria to the Peking market, or strolling through the streets with their wives and children, they never fail to attract attention from Europeans. The perfection of their seat on horse or camel-back, the rich colouring of their complexion, their jovial air and readiness

to greet Englishmen and other Europeans as comrades of the cup and chase, were, as I found them on my first arrival at Peking, in distinct contrast to the bearing of the Chinese. But still further apart from the Mongols stood the Coreans, their rivals in picturesqueness.

As a rule, two missions came each year from Corea: the one bearing tribute, and the other to receive the almanac for the coming year, and carry it back to their own country. Year after year we met them in Peking, and it seemed as though time would never bring them any closer to foreigners like ourselves. As far as we could see at that time, they were divided into two distinct classes—the official and the menial; but neither master nor man ever had a smile or word for us. The officials were easily noticeable from a distance on account of the bright gloss of the purple or blue silk robes which they wore. The robe, fastened at the waist by a band, hid the rest of the dress, excepting the shoes and hat. The shoes were of a Chinese cut, but of a large size, as the feet were swathed in cotton cloth, and the hat was of a decidedly Welsh pattern and strange material. A cone, like that of a Welsh-woman's hat, was fitted to the head, and a circular plate, projecting three or four inches, formed the brim. Both parts were made of a substance like the perforated sides of a meat safe, fastened on to a

frame which, like itself, was black, and the hat was tied under the chin by broad black strings.

Many attempts to buy one of these hats were all equally unsuccessful, and only proved the truth of the assertion that the Coreans would sell none of their wares except at the great fairs, held at the Pien Mên, where, three times a year, the traders of China and Corea met and exchanged their goods under official inspection. Even the copper cash which were in circulation in Corea could not be obtained in China, and paper, timber, and ginseng were almost the only products of the country procurable even in the north of China.

Of these three the paper was excellent for writing purposes with a Chinese pen, and a strong kind of it was in use in almost every house and temple for papering doors and windows exposed to the outer air. While strong and impervious to rain, it let in the light, and was consequently employed in lieu of glass in the winter-houses in gardens.

As to the merits of Corean ginseng, the Chinese, at any rate, had no doubts. Where vitality was becoming extinct from age, or strength had been reduced by long illness, ginseng was employed with equal faith and success, and the drug, if of the best quality, was worth almost its weight in gold. How far the success was due to faith, and how far to the previous diet of the patient, is a matter of question.

I never recollect an instance of any European trying the experiment on himself, though Chinese are not slow to press its use upon their foreign friends. All



GINSENG.

that most people know of the drug is that it is the root of the panax ginseng, and that, like the mandrake, in shape it frequently resembles the figure of a man.

Corean timber was well known in Peking, where the absence of forests in the neighbourhood is severely

felt by native builders, who are almost dependent upon the woods of Liaotung and Corea for their materials.

Another outcome of Corea, which was frequently to be seen in the hands of the Corean coolies, was the little pony of the country, fine-coated and small-headed. Ten to eleven hands was about the ordinary height of these little stallions, but their drivers had to step out sharply to keep up with them, even when laden with the heavy buckets in which they carried water to the Legation.

The drivers, clad in short cotton jackets, loose trousers, sandals, and cotton wrappings round their feet, were no more disposed than their masters to be friendly with us, and even on the common meeting-ground of the bookshops, which formed the frequent haunt of many of the officials, no change was to be seen in the stern demeanour uniformly assumed towards foreigners.

That a mutual antipathy should have existed between Coreans and Europeans was not strange, for the occasions on which they had been thrown into contact were not such as to favour friendly feelings. In 1866 a persecution of Christians had broken out in Corea, which had entailed the deaths, under frightful torture and suffering, of nine Roman Catholic priests with their bishop, and thousands, if not tens of thousands, of converts.

An expedition sent the same year by the French Minister to avenge the deaths of his countrymen had led to no definite results, but that blood had been shed in the field as well as on the execution ground.

About the same time an American schooner, named the *General Sherman*, had been burnt with all on board in a river on the northern coast of Corea, where the vessel had attempted to trade.

In 1867 there had set forth from Shanghai an expedition, under the guidance of a Roman Catholic priest, a German adventurer, and an American citizen, whose object had been to rifle one of the royal tombs of Corea of its contents, in order, as they said, to extort concessions from the king in favour of trade and missionary work, or, as their enemies said, to seize the gold coffins said to be buried there. The expedition failed, but not until blood had been shed, and greater hatred towards foreigners generally had been excited.

Such were a few of the facts relating to Corea which were generally associated with the name of the country, when in the winter of 1870 foreigners in China were startled by a rumour that Corea had volunteered to expel all Europeans from China. How far the rumour was well founded it is not necessary to inquire, but the amusement which the story created faded away the following year into a

feeling of respect for the "tiger-hunters," who had fought so pluckily against an American expedition under Admiral Rogers, which had been sent with the object of securing protection for American seamen on the coasts of Corea.

But two months later the Coreans showed that when not provoked they would give the assistance which they refused to yield to force, and the crew of a vessel wrecked on the south coast were well taken care of until they were fetched away in one of H.M. ships. Mr. Mayers, H.M. Consul at Chefoo, who went on board the gunboat, did his utmost to use the occasion to cultivate some relations with the people and officials, but it was found impossible to purchase anything or establish any communications with the officials, though presents of chickens and other food were offered by the natives, evidently acting under orders.

In 1873 the King of Corea attained his majority, and with it the reins of power, which had been withheld from him by his father, the Prince Regent, considerably later than is usual with minors in that country, where, as in China, the time of attaining majority depends upon the character of the boy and his capacity for rule. On the expiration of the regency, which had lasted ten years, hopes were entertained of a milder treatment of the Christians in the country, who had for some years suffered the

most savage persecution, instigated by the government, but there were few who expected that the country would be opened to foreigners except by force.

In 1876, however, the Japanese, in consequence of an attack on some of their men who had landed on the island of Kanghoa, at the mouth of the river which flows past the capital, sent an armed expedition to negotiate a treaty of peace with Corea; and, partly owing to the good offices of China, the mission was successful without having to use its arms.

Of the full meaning of the change of policy which this treaty implied, it is impossible to form an idea without reverting to the previous history of Corea. So far as historical records can be referred to—and Corea certainly would claim that 3000 years are covered by them—it seems doubtful whether she had ever admitted the right of free intercourse between foreigners and her own subjects on her own soil. From time to time her land had been overrun by armies of invasion from China and Japan, to resist which the most strenuous efforts and the most complete sacrifices were made on her part. Even these would more than once have been fruitless but for assistance from storms and accidents, which prevented the junction of the land and sea forces of her enemies.

Of the utter wreck and ruin which resulted from

these wars, the traces are strikingly evident at this day in the paucity of buildings, pictures, books, and porcelain, of an earlier date than even the last Japanese invasion, which took place at the end of the sixteenth century. When it is borne in mind that Corea has long been credited with having introduced the manufacture of porcelain into Japan, and that her state of civilisation centuries back was certainly not less advanced than that of the present day, the completeness of the destruction which took place during that war is fully realised by any one travelling in the country. Of monuments there are hardly a dozen of any antiquity through the length and breadth of the land; and the most diligent search is necessary even in the capital to discover anything in the shops or stalls which is worth carrying away.

Under her new treaty, Corea was to permit the residence of Japanese at three ports on her coast, and to allow of the establishment of a Legation at her capital, besides granting the right of trade between subjects of the two countries, subject to certain restrictions. That such a change could not take place without some disturbance was but inevitable; and in 1882, at a time when the king was anxious to establish relations with foreign countries, in order to secure the independence of Corea, and when treaties between Corea, the United States, Germany, and Great Britain were on their way

across the seas for ratification, there broke out in the palace a revolution directed against the queen and her family, one of the consequences of which was the destruction of the Japanese Legation, the death of several of its members, and the flight of the Minister and his staff to the coast, where at last they were free from pursuit, and, after some exposure at sea in a native junk, were picked up by H.M.S. *Flying Fish*, which fortunately was surveying those waters.

Of the revolution itself there is no need to say much. It was only remarkable for the promptitude with which it was put down by a Chinese force despatched from Tientsin to the assistance of the king, and for the extraordinary resuscitation of the queen. When the palace was invaded, she had been carried off in disguise to a town in the neighbourhood, and a lady of her court, personating her mistress, had sacrificed her life for the queen. The secret of the disguise was not discovered; an edict was issued decreeing national mourning for her majesty; and it was not until after order had been completely restored that her existence was made known.

Japan lost no time in demanding ample satisfaction for the outrage on her Minister and his staff, and Corea made little difficulty as to the terms demanded.[1]

[1] Owing to the difficulty which Corea found in paying the indemnity stipulated by treaty, Japan generously abandoned in 1884 insistance on its payment in full.

The treaty with Great Britain, which had been signed in 1882, not having been ratified, Sir H. Parkes, our late Minister at Peking, was instructed in the autumn of the following year to negotiate another treaty; and about the same time an opportunity was offered me by Mr. Paterson, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., of visiting the country privately. This led to a larger connection with it than I contemplated at the time.

Of the interest which I naturally felt in a country which, without the natural barriers of Tibet or Roraima, had withstood all attempts on the part of Europeans to intrude on its territory, it is not necessary to speak. The land before me was virtually a new country of which nothing was known to outsiders, except through the few brave men who, in the midst of their labours for Christianity, had found time and spirit to write something of the land in which they were dying. It is true that *The Hermit Nation* had just been written by Mr. Griffis; but full as the book is of information, it is derived entirely from other authorities, as the author had not set foot in the country. Thus much remained, and still remains, to be learnt from personal observation of the people and their land.

CHAPTER II

Departure for Corea—Difficulties of landing—Scene on shore—Start for Soul—Benighted at Mapu.

LEAVING Shanghai early on the morning of the 8th
" November, we steamed direct to the Corean coast, off which we anchored the following evening. Large flocks of swans off Swan Island were the only objects of interest on the way, and the weather was too cold in any case to encourage a long stay on deck. As soon as the tide served, our good steamer, the *Nanzing*, passed in from Ferrières to Roze Island, off which were lying H.M.SS. *Sapphire* and *Cockchafer*. The morning was fine, the tide high, and the first view of Corea decidedly attractive. Numerous small islands lay in the river, girt with richly-coloured rock, which, as seen through the haze of the morning, stood out precipitously from the water. The autumn tints on the few shrubs on their summits, and the red granite of the hills on the shore, lent an air of warmth which was peculiarly acceptable.

There was little time, however, to enjoy the scene, for rain came on and prevented the landing of our goods and chattels. We therefore paid a call on Captain Fullerton to ask for news of Sir H. Parkes's doings, and made arrangements for an early start the next day, the final understanding with the boatmen being that they should lie alongside the steamer that night in order not to lose the morning's tide.

Our party was a large one, consisting of three Englishmen—viz. Messrs. Paterson, Morrison, and myself—and M. Velschow, a Dane. In addition there were several Chinese servants and workmen, three Chinese ponies, six or seven retrievers and spaniels, and an enormous quantity of stores of every kind that could be wanted for a month's stay in the interior. To land all these in boats, such as we had seen, was evidently no easy matter, and I came on deck with daylight to see how things were progressing. Truly, there was need for some one to be stirring, for the boats which were to have taken us off were lying off a point of Roze Island, whence they were unable to make way against the flood-tide. Boats were sent off from the steamer to help them, and eventually, with Captain Balbirnie's personal assistance, one or two junks did get alongside. When there, it was little help that they could render. The men on board, in a dazed condition, watched

the energetic manner in which the crew heaved our traps on board and slung the ponies into the open hold. When they cast off, it seemed to me that my life was in greater peril than it had ever been in before. No rails or iron of any kind entered into the construction of the boat; no paint concealed their absence. As far as the eye could gather through the mass of boxes, ponies, men, and strings of a nautical kind, the boat consisted of a fortuitous concurrence of planks, which extended the whole length of the sides and bottom, but were too short to cover in more than the two ends. In the planks were fixed two poles, to which were attached the sails, and the art of navigation consisted in dropping anchor and letting down the sails with a run on top of the confused mass of beings in the boat. Strangely enough we outran our fellow, and after several times hauling up to our anchor, which must have had a trick of running landwards, we positively reached the shore just as the ebb-tide was becoming too strong to make further way against it.

The scene on shore was quaint in the extreme. On a small rocky headland, which overhung the little bay that we had entered, were seated a large group of penguins, whose white breasts, black heads, and stiff motionless figures stood out in relief against the rocks behind them. Our nearer approach disturbed them from their perches, and

converted them at once into a family group consisting of Noah and his descendants, in the self-same hat and coat, and with the same wooden gait with which they stepped out of the ark in the nursery. But they had taken to smoking, and left their wives at home.

It seemed unfair to ask men who were so much our seniors to lend a hand, but of their own accord they came forward and willingly did their best. As they had no bamboos, and had not acquired the Chinese trick of carrying weights, it required many hands and many journeys to get the things on shore. As to the ponies, it would have been impossible for them to get out of the wells in which they stood, but that it had to be done.

When at last Paterson and I had eyes for other things than our own immediate belongings, we found that Morrison's boat, failing to reach our landing-place, had made leeway and drifted on to a mud bank some 300 yards from the shore, and that Captain Balbirnie in his gig was endeavouring to extricate him without placing himself in the same position.

The question arose, what should we do? We were assured on all hands that there was no place in Chemulpo where we could sleep, and the wretched plank buildings and mud huts, which furnished all the accommodation that the place could offer, were cer-

tainly not inviting. The Japanese Consulate looked a real palace, but as we did not know the Consul, and could not speak Japanese, we did not like to ask for quarters there, and the only place really available, even for shelter, was a mud cottage which formed the Custom's offices.

Just as Paterson and I had agreed to push on at once for Soul, in spite of the condition of the ponies, the lateness of the hour, 2 P.M., and the distance, about twenty-six miles, Morrison surprised us by appearing on shore. The contemplated desertion, for only two ponies had been landed, did not seem to be favoured by him, but in such quarters our presence could hardly lend a charm, and we therefore started off, leaving all our belongings, and thereby entailing on our companions an amount of trouble, of which we little dreamt, in arranging for their despatch to Soul.

The last words that rung in our ears were, "You will be late for the city gate!" but such a thought mattered little compared with the relief of having actually made a start.

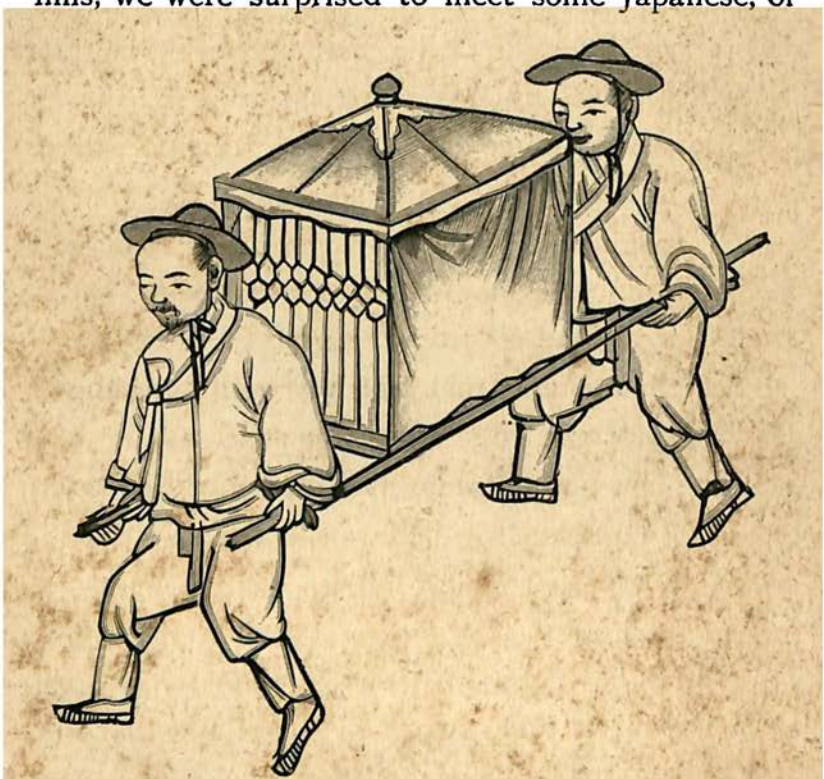
We were soon free of the Japanese houses which had been run up alongside of the road by the small traders, who had profited by the opportunities of early trade with a new country. These houses formed the intermediate stage between the Japanese Consulate and the huts of the Corean squatters, who

had come to the place for work. A Japanese house can never fail to be possessed of some attractiveness, but the Corean huts were wretched hovels of mud thatched with straw, almost destitute of ventilation, and arranged in irregular lines on either side of small trenches, which contained some portion of the filth and refuse lying outside the cabins. It is true that the town was quite new, and a year or two previously there had been only five or six cabins, where at that time there were over a hundred.

We were glad to get away from these surroundings on to the low hills, which extend over almost the whole of the country between the sea and that part of the river Han which is opposite the capital. The road was in fair order, the air fresh and clear, and the view both towards the sea and towards the high mountains, standing at the back of Soul, picturesque and exhilarating. Rice-fields lay in the lower parts of the valleys; above them were the cottages of the farmers, sheltered by a few chestnuts, alders, and firs; and the higher ground was bare, save of a coarse herbage of wormwood, *similax*, and grass, among which stood baby-firs and dwarf-oaks, that had suffered so much from the hands of fuel-cutters as to be difficult of recognition.

But little traffic was to be seen on the road, as we were far behind all travellers who had started

that day for Soul. Now and again a man leading a bull with an empty pack, or a few pony drivers, passed us with their charges on their way to Chemulpo; and then, crossing the chief ridge of hills, we were surprised to meet some Japanese, of



PORTERS WITH TRAVELLER IN CHAIR.

whom one was in a Corean chair, and another was riding a little pony, using a red blanket as his saddle. The chair seemed but a poor contrivance, having no step on which to rest the feet, and explaining to us the story we had heard of, how a big Englishman, seated in one of these chairs for the

first time, had been rudely surprised by the porters seizing his legs, thrusting him to the back of the chair, and trussing him there and then.

Few of the villages stood by the roadside, for the road was newly constructed. In the distance sometimes the figure of a woman was seen scuttling away to cover, and our curiosity was excited by the knowledge that in the previous year no woman had been seen by the members of the mission which accompanied Admiral Willes to Corea. We had to content ourselves, however, with distant views, for we had no time to spare.

About ten miles from Soul the country changed, and we entered into what appeared to be rich pasture land, but on it neither cattle nor horses were grazing. Dreaming of the farms which might spring up there later on under foreign management, we passed on until a ford across a branch of the river Han brought us on to a sandy plain over a mile wide, on the surface of which the stones that were strewn, and the bays and holes that had been worked out, told of the swish of mighty summer floods.

How great the floods were I failed to realise until the following summer, when the whole of the grass land and sandy plain were deep under water, which reached to the foot of the hills. So great then were the breadth and strength of the stream that at the point where it was narrowest, the ferry

boat took forty and forty-five minutes in crossing the two branches of the river.

The deep sand of the plain told hardly on our ponies, which had been given no time to recover from their sea journey, and though the day was darkening, we were forced to get off and lead them. On reaching the main stream, which was about 400 yards wide, we had to wait some time for the ferry boat, and by the time we reached the further shore it was quite dark.

The question then arose, should we push on over three miles of very bad road to Soul, and risk being too late for the city gates, or stay where we were and endeavour to find a Chinese agent of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., who had quarters somewhere in the village? Wrongly, perhaps, we took the latter course. By that time only a light here and there was to be seen in the streets, and wayfarers were few. Neither of us knew a word of Corean, and the darkness was against communications in written Chinese, but at last I laid hold of a man and made him follow with his hand the movements of my stick as I traced in gigantic Chinese characters on the mud, "Where is the foreign hong?" He led us off at once, met a man in the street, said a few words to him, and disappeared. This time we were more cautious, and after the previous performance had been repeated, stuck close

to our man, who led us up narrow twisting lanes to a little house on the hill. There the Chinaman appeared with a friend, and his landlord, on learning that we were outside, took us by the hand and led us into his dwelling. The courtesy of his manner was very surprising to me, but the more I have seen of the Coreans, the more fully I have appreciated their politeness towards their guests and the dignity of their behaviour.

Outside the room into which he led us was a ledge on which were arranged seven or eight pairs of shoes, and in the room were their owners, seated on a clean floor covered with oil-paper on which grass mats were placed. Furniture there was none, but the walls were neatly covered with white paper, and there was a general air of comfortable cleanliness about the place. Each man was furnished with a pipe with a brass bowl and mouthpiece, and a reed stem nearly three feet long. One or two small brass spittoons were on the floor, and a kerosene lamp, betokening the influence of the Chinese tenant, lit the room. The men were all wearing long white robes of cotton cloth, but one had taken off his conical hat, which was hanging on a peg on the wall, and had on only a tight band to keep his hair in place. The hair, dragged away from the forehead and sides of the head, was gathered together in a knot on the crown, in the manner said

to have been general in China previous to the establishment of the present dynasty.

We soon withdrew to the rooms occupied by the Chinaman, which were arranged in Chinese style. He undertook to get us some food, and when we had looked to our ponies, our meal was set before us. Apparently he was a man of simple habits, for I do not recollect anything except some rice. It was capitally boiled, but it is astonishing how soon the monotony of eating perfectly plain rice begins to tell even on a fierce appetite. A teacupful is enough for most people; and if the only liquid is tea, drunk out of Chinese wine cups, two cups will satisfy most persons.

When the banquet had been cleared away, our Chinese host found us a couple of quilts and some thick wadded coats, and we lay down to sleep undisturbed by fears of indigestion.

CHAPTER III

Road to Soul—Streets—Shops—Dresses—Sir H. Parkes's quarters —Wares for sale in streets—Style of houses—Duck-shooting.

THERE was little inducement to linger over our breakfast, which consisted, like the supper, of boiled rice and minute cups of tea; but, before leaving, we hastily inspected our quarters. The house consisted of several detached buildings, of an architecture half Chinese, half Japanese, each in its own court-yard, and generally facing south. The best of them was raised a couple of feet above the ground, and had an open balcony running along its front, somewhat after the fashion of a stage at a Chinese country theatre. The woodwork was unconcealed by paint or varnish, and the only part which bore any ornament was the lower panels of the windows and doors, the centres of which were in slight relief. Windows and doors differed but little, each consisting of battens of wood, of which the lower half was filled in with panels, and the upper with a trellis-work covered with Corean paper.

The windows slid in grooves to either side, and the doors, when thrown open or closed, were held in place by iron rings passed over knobs of the same material. The eaves of the house projected considerably, especially at the corners, and the roof was of tiles.

The lane which passed outside the house was barely wide enough for two ponies to pass each other, but evidently the houses in it belonged to men who were above the common class of shopkeepers. The lane led to the summit of a little hill, whence a good view was obtained of the village and of the river, in which lay a considerable number of native craft, and others were sailing up with the tide.

Leaving our ponies in the care of the Chinaman, we started off for Soul. For the first 200 or 300 yards our road lay through booths and stalls, where tobacco, pipes, copper rice-bowls, sandals, cone seeds, winter cherries, and books vied with each other. One or two shops of grain had a small stock of wheat, maize, millet, beans, and peas, and the miscellaneous adjuncts of Corean dress, such as tobacco-pouches, pipe-bags, flint and tinder pouches, and the like, were to be bought at several places; but there were few articles of dress for sale, as clothes are generally made up at home. Hat strings, tassels, cuffs, and basket hats of coarse straw were, however, evidently in great demand.

Beyond this village of Mapu, which contains several hundred houses, was a low range of hills, thickly planted with fruit trees, and topped with firs. The animal and foot traffic on the road was considerable, but its condition was abominable, no attempt having been made to level the rough rocks over which it passed. On this account we had left our ponies behind us, and as there were 18° of frost, we had no cause to complain of a little exercise. Numbers of people were astir, all looking wonderfully clean in their long white robes. Quantities of fish were on their way to the market, and mountains of brushwood were slowly making their way on the backs of fine bulls to the same destination.

On crossing the hill, the first view was obtained of the city wall, running down the western slope of a hill, about three miles long, and 800 feet high, which lies as a kind of curtain on the south of Soul. Firwoods, and the absence of houses, give it a park-like appearance, and the hill is used as a lounge and picnicking place by the many lovers of scenery in the city.

For half a mile or so the road ran through suburbs of a very poor sort, even poorer looking than the cottages in the country, on account of the lack of space around them. The roofs were only about eight feet above the ground, but the road was

so narrow that they shut out the surroundings from view. Not far from the city wall we crossed a little stream, in whose bed the mangled bodies of French missionaries had been thrown, less than twenty years previously, after suffering all the horrors of prison life and execution in its cruellest form. Times had changed since then, and we walked on attracting little attention, followed by no crowd, and finding the people favourably disposed towards us, judging from their looks.

Snow was threatening as we passed through the massive stone gateway of the city wall, and in the broad street inside a novel scene awaited us. The tall conical hats of the shopkeepers and better class of people were surmounted by yellow covers of oil-paper, which we had previously noticed folded up like a fan and thrust into the girdle of the dress. The villagers, cattle and pony drivers, who boasted no tall hats, were half hidden underneath huge inverted bowls of matting, within which was a light frame that rested on the head. The difficulty of seeing from underneath these coverings produced a curious expression as of men half awoken from their sleep. With a background of low stalls thatched with straw, and of enormous piles of brushwood, beneath which a bull's head could here and there be seen, the sight was sufficiently quaint.

Turning up a lane, away from the main street,

we came, almost for the first time, across some women. Most of them wore a green mantle over their heads, the folds of which were drawn over the



WOMAN AND MAID-SERVANT.

face, leaving only the eyes exposed. Loose baggy trousers, bunched up at the hips, caused an awkward waddle,[1] but the feet, clad in white socks and straw

[1] The waddle is no cause for wonder, if it is true that fashion requires that women should always wear three pairs of trousers.

sandals, were small and well shaped. It seemed to us odd that each woman that we met should have arrived that moment at her home, but, as we learnt later on, women have the right of *entrée* everywhere, and to avoid us they turned into the nearest house at hand. Other women of the lowest class were standing at the doors of their houses, suckling their children, or doing some household work. Their faces, which were uncovered, bore the signs of smallpox, hard work, and hard fare. A short bodice worn over the shoulders left the breasts exposed, and the dirt of their clothes, the lack of beauty of any kind, and the squalor in which they lived, gave a most unpleasant impression of Corean women in general. That this judgment is unfair and based on too small an experience is very possible, and if Père Dallet is to be believed, Corean women are neither lacking in beauty nor in the noblest of the qualities of their sex.

The lane boasted a few furniture shops, containing ice chests of wood strapped with iron, large and small cabinets, hat boxes and stands. Most of the cabinets were veneered, and the plaques of maple, peach, and other woods were laid on with considerable skill and taste. Hinges and locks of brass or white copper added an air of brightness, but there was a lack of finish about the inside of the cases.

The doorways of the common houses were low

and opened directly on the street, but a screen of strings hanging in front of them hid the interior from view. The better class of shops stood slightly back from the road, and were guarded by an open rail.



WOMEN IN COTTAGE.

On crossing a bridge over a small stream that runs the whole length of the city, we saw a number of women washing clothes in the water and beating them with sticks of wood. Though the stream was low, and its bed served as a dung-heap, water was

also being carried away from it for household uses, and there was evidence on every side that, according to all rules of sanitation, the population of the city should by rights have ceased to exist.



WATER-CARRIER.

But the throng of people in the main street, which runs from east to west, was considerable. From this point it was possible to form an idea of the extent of the city, which is almost exactly three miles in that direction. Though the breadth from the north to the south wall is much the same,

wooded hills on the north side, like those on the south, occupy a large portion of the space. But in the lower part of the valley the houses are closely packed, and though they are only of one story, the population is probably between 150,000 and 200,000.

Of the main street, which is about forty yards wide, and serves as a market-place, we had but a glimpse before we dived into another labyrinth of lanes. We knew the name of the street which we sought, and the passers-by, to whom I occasionally appealed, willingly responded, but Paterson, who had been to the place once before, needed little assistance, and at last we reached the doorway that he knew as that of his host.

Mr. P. G. von Möllendorff was at that time head of the Corean Customs Department as well as a Vice-President of the Foreign Office, and both from the fact that he had been recommended to the king by H.E. Li Hung-chang, the Governor-General of Chih Li, and, also, owing to his being a foreigner, he had great influence at court and out of it.

The house in which he lived was a present from the king, and consisted of several blocks of a superior class, but in the same style as the house in which we had slept. The quarters into which we were shown were very attractive, and the cleanliness and comfort of a German house in Corea were

appreciated to the full after what had been seen on the road and in the city. Our creature comforts were soon attended to, and the luxuries of a good wash and of hot coffee were properly appreciated.

Our companions turned up about mid-day, and refused to accept our congratulations on not having started with us. They too had spent an uncomfortable night. The wind had driven in full career over their prostrate bodies in the shed where they had slept. Food and drink had been lying around them in quantities, but a reluctance to open large packing cases prematurely had limited their diet to *pâté de foie gras*, and finally three or four hours of a frosty morning had been spent in the search for truant bulls and their drivers, and in packing them off to Soul.

On account of the size of our party, I sought the hospitality of Sir H. Parkes; and perhaps the most striking thing in Soul was the sight of his escort, in their trim uniform, on guard at the gate of the quarters which had been assigned to him near the Western Palace, and of the flag which flew over the first British Legation in Corea.

The preparations made for Sir H. Parkes's reception showed considerable thoughtfulness for his ease and comfort. The rooms were cleanly papered, and supplied with chairs and table; the courtyards were well swept, and the stables stocked with

ponies from the king's stud. The cold, however, was intense, for there was a general reluctance to use the Corean system of heating the rooms by hot air carried underneath the floors from stoves lighted out of doors. But there was too much work on hand, for any but idlers, like myself, to notice such details, and a certain amount of exercise was involved in crossing from one room to another, and burrowing in through the tiny windows and doors. So great was the number of entrances to each building, that even the bath-rooms lost their sanctity, and the game of hide-and-seek went on for ever, if by ill-chance two persons were looking for each other at the same time.

The negotiations carried on by Sir H. Parkes and Herr Zappe, on behalf of the German and British Governments, with the Corean Foreign Office, interfered considerably with attention being paid to minor matters, and we had to wait some days for our passports. As we were all anxious to carry away presents to friends in China, much of the time was spent in shopping, but the scarcity of things for sale was crushing. Of course it mattered little that no tiger skins could be found, for we did not doubt that we should carry away many of our own shooting, but the sables were not only few but poor, while other skins were scarce, and consisted chiefly of squirrel, dog, and cat. Leopard skins of a small

size were procurable, but the demand for them was considerable, as they form part of the furniture of official chairs, over the backs of which they are thrown, both at home and in the streets. Beaver and other skins were scarce, and the only rarity that I noticed was a kind of ermine with a white tail.

Of those things which seemed sufficiently characteristic of Corea to be worth taking away, one of the most attractive was a kind of cap worn by ladies, made partly of fur and partly of braid, and decorated with scarlet tassel. The top of the cap is open, presumably to allow of its being passed over the head-dress, but, as I have never seen a Corean lady, I cannot speak positively of how they wear their caps.

But if there were only a few things to be bought, still the places in which they were found were interesting. The busiest trade was carried on near the junction of the main street in the neighbourhood of the bell of the city. This is struck before the city gates are closed in the evening, or when a fire has broken out, or some other danger is discovered, and though hung close to the ground, it is easily heard in all parts. Close to the same site there formerly stood the stone placed by the ex-regent's orders, bearing an inscription calling upon all Coreans to put to death any foreigners who landed on their shores.

The only danger to be feared by us, however, lay in the touts, who were on the alert for any customers for their shops. Of these, some were two-storied buildings in stone, and others were low buildings, divided into compartments, each boasting some six feet of frontage, and running round the sides of a small courtyard. As each compartment in a building held almost identically the same wares, it was no easy matter to decide which of the little dens should be selected.

So small was the box in which the proprietor had his seat, that almost every article was within reach of his hand without his rising, and the lack of any occasion for energy had produced an indifference to sales, which weighed heavily on the touts.

Among the baits in vogue were paper fans, vinaigrettes of filigree silver, pillows and embroidered pillow-cases, rice-bowls, spittoons, candlesticks, and household utensils in highly polished brass. The candlesticks were furnished with a novel invention in the shape of a sliding plate, which ran in a groove on one side, and was intended as a screen against draughts.

In the larger buildings were immense stores of shoes of a Chinese pattern. The ladies' shoes were embroidered and very small, though their feet are not deformed, but the men's were immense on

account of the thick cotton wrappings worn round the feet.

The silks were a decided disappointment. As a rule, they were not free from knots, and they were



STREET SCENE—MEN FIGHTING AND PEACEMAKERS.

all of a very narrow breadth. The lustre, too, which they used to boast had disappeared with the use of aniline dyes.

In the shops facing the street, the most attractive goods were the saddles and saddlery, made of leather and ornamented with silver. In weight and

size they were entirely disproportionate to the tiny ponies for which they were intended, but evidently the riders did not take much horse exercise except in the streets, as no man of any position in society moved about without a servant to take charge of the reins, while the master held on to the cantle of the saddle.



IRON BOX INLAID WITH SILVER.

In the curio shops the display was very limited. Some Chinese porcelain and bronzes of an inferior class, a few boxes and caskets of serpentine, Japanese odds and ends of various kinds, a folding-screen or two, ink-cases, and leathern boxes of a common kind, formed the bulk. The only distinctly native article seemed to consist of iron caskets inlaid with silver, the pattern of which was sometimes very delicate. The boxes closed with a spring, which yielded to pressure on a knob placed inside the handle. In

shape, design, and workmanship these varied considerably, but as a rule they appeared to be intended only to serve as tobacco receptacles.

The wide streets were lined with booths, among which the grain stores were the most prominent. Fruit stalls with pears, apples, quinces, nuts, cone seeds, winter cherries, persimmons dried in two or three different fashions, salisburia seeds, chestnuts, fungi, and sea-weed had a fair trade, but undoubtedly the tobacco and pipe stalls were the most numerous as well as the most frequented.

But shops, houses, and their belongings were all inferior in interest to the people in the streets. The dissimilarity of dress and customs from those of China and Japan was very marked. One of the most striking figures in the crowd was that of men in mourning robes of hemp, girt round the waist with a cord or coarse band. Their heads were almost completely hidden under light wicker hats of basket shape, reaching to the shoulders, but the faces were further hidden by tiny screens of hempen cloth on a triangular frame, formed by two sticks, carried in front of the mouth. No man addressed them, and they seldom spoke, but strode on as though they had nought in common with the throng of idlers.

Very different from them were the boys of the place. They seemed to enjoy life more than any

one; and it was a pleasant sight to see half a dozen of them seated sideways on the empty packs of their



MAN IN MOURNING.

ponies, which they cantered through the streets with a complete disregard for passers-by, ponies, or their own selves, while they laughed, chaffed, and ate chestnuts not discreetly but incessantly.

Another species of the same genus was the boy-waiter, who, in lieu of a hat, carried on his head a small round table charged with dishes of rice, pork, cabbage, wine, and sauce, for some customer who had ordered his meal from a restaurant. The tables were all of the same size, about eighteen inches in diameter, circular, and with a small gap in the fringe of woodwork, underneath the slab, to allow of the bearer's head slipping easily in and out. These boys were all bachelors, and wore their hair in a queue down their backs, and had a very different air from the young swell of thirteen or fourteen, who boasted a wife at home, wore his hair in a knot under a man's tall hat, and swaggered about in long white robes with a pipe in his hand, and with almost as vacuous an air as any masher of the West.

For a man who really had no regard for expense, there was nothing to compare with the figure cut by officials. Dressed in robes of crape or silk of the brightest colours, with a throat-lash of yellow and red beads in place of the ordinary black hat ribbon, and with half a dozen servants running at their sides and shouting out for room for their masters, they dashed along through the streets, perched on the back of tiny stallions, and having apparently no thought save for the tenure of their seat. It is no wonder that they are not free from

nervousness, for the height of the saddle and its thickness seem to separate the rider from his steed in a manner which is emphasised only too strongly by the abandonment of the reins to a runner, and by the presence of a man on either side ready to



STATESMAN ON MONOCYCLE.

check too heavy a lurch and restore the equilibrium of the rider. Other officials were borne more sedately in open arm-chairs, and others again had the proud privilege of using a strange combination of wheelbarrow and sedan chair, which is reserved for statesmen of the highest rank.

Blind men feeling their way with sticks, drunkards lying by the roadside, and bulls hidden under enormous loads of brushwood, lent an air of calm repose which was very grateful after the excitement that followed the passage of an official through the streets of Soul. But no matter where we turned, an incessant tap-tap, tap-tap-tap was heard, which we soon learnt to regard as characteristic of Corean towns.

In a country where soap is not known to the natives, and where none the less the men wear white clothing and expect that the outer robe at any rate shall be spotless, the labour entailed upon the women is immense. I believe that the clothes are three times boiled, and cleansed with lye, and after that they are washed in running water; but getting them up after the wash entails almost as much trouble as the washing itself. All day long, and through the earlier hours of the night, the women seem to be engaged in this process, which consists simply of beating the cloth on a flat board with a wooden ruler. The result is a gloss on the cloth of almost a silky nature, and which lasts for a considerable time.

Of the king's two palaces, one had been partially destroyed by fire in 1882, and within its grounds Europeans were free to walk without being pestered by any guides or attendants. The main

buildings had escaped all hurt. With one exception they were all in the Chinese style of architecture, and differed little from the buildings to be found at Peking, except in the sober colour of the tiles and the inferior arabesques painted on the ceilings. The exception, however, was very complete, and thoroughly Corean.

Built as a summer house by the side of a pond filled with lotuses, and guarded by marble balustrades, it was raised some eight feet from the ground, and rested on columns and obelisks of stone placed about sixteen feet apart. Save for these lines of columns, the space underneath the building was left quite open, and the ground ventilation was consequently complete. The pavilion itself consisted of a room about eighty feet square, with windows on all sides to catch the breeze. Wide staircases of wood at the corners led from the courtyard below to the balcony, and numerous hooks and chains in the beams of the ceiling showed that the room was frequently illuminated with Chinese lanterns.

The plan of this building is adopted on a smaller scale in all Corean houses of any pretensions. At the eastern end of the house there is always a smaller room, slightly raised on hexagonal stones above the ground, so that a free current of air can pass beneath it. The floor of these

"summer rooms" is of wood, and consequently the Corean system of heating by hot air cannot be utilised as regards the summer portion of the house, which is left unoccupied in winter.

Another purely Corean device, which attracted attention within the palace grounds, was the chimneys of the buildings which had been burnt down. The chimneys of brick still remained standing, and most of them were not even blackened on the outside. As the smoke from the heating fires escapes quite close to the ground, the chimney is placed some twelve feet to the rear of the building, in order to prevent the smoke being a nuisance or blackening the house, and thus, in this case, while the buildings over a large area had been entirely destroyed, the chimneys had remained undamaged.

The grounds of the palace were about a mile long by nearly a mile wide, and extended at the back up the slope of a hill, prettily wooded with firs. A striking feature of the wood was the absence of undergrowth, due to the shifting character of the disintegrated granite which composed the surface soil. For the same reason, many of the mountains round Soul stand out quite white in the distance; even the fir trees that can find a footing on them having been cut down by villagers for fuel, and not a blade of grass being left to hide their nakedness.

So secluded is this hill that, in spite of its close

neighbourhood to the city, beasts of prey have their home in the rocks piled about its summit, and after a fall of snow the footprints of leopards are generally to be found for some distance down its sides.

The fine frosty weather tempted us one day outside the city to look for wild duck. Mounted on Corean steeds, and attended by their grooms, we rode away some six miles to a low plain stretching down towards the river. There we dispersed, and I had the bad fortune to drop a winged duck into a reedy pool half coated with ice. My little spaniel refused to abandon the bird until the cold quite overpowered him, in ill condition as he was after a Shanghai summer. After vain attempts to rub some warmth into him, I started back alone on my pony. But my dog was too worn out to keep pace even with that little animal, and I very soon had to take him on to my saddle. Rain came on steadily and cold. The streets and road worked into a slush, and it was impossible to get a trot out of my mount. Meanwhile my dog became colder and colder, though I rubbed him incessantly, and at last, when a mile or so from the Legation, after two or three painful gasps, he lay rigid in my arms, with his teeth fast clenched and a foam on his mouth. It seemed a shame to leave so true a friend in the streets of Soul, and I carried him on, though I believed him to be dead; but to my great

satisfaction, after wrapping him up in blankets by the fire, and rubbing his lips with hot soup, he came round, and two days later on was able to accompany us when we started on our journey.

A spaniel of Paterson's which had suffered in like manner, left his master's side to crawl into a booth, where he was taken care of during the night by the Corean occupant, who restored him the next morning on search being made for the dog.

CHAPTER IV

Start on journey inland—Scenery on road—Our first night's quarters—Frost and flies—Stone dolmens—Gold washings—Corporal punishment—Pink ibis—Tablets to officials—Silver hunting—No ferry boat—Deserted village—Lost on the mountains—Cumbrous coinage—Steamer missing—Sound sleepers—Fusan—Shanghai again.

THE days spent in waiting for our passports had not been entirely wasted. Part of our train had been sent on ahead, and preparations for the rest to follow had been brought to such a pitch of perfection, that a start at 7 A.M. on the 16th November was looked upon as a certainty. M. von Möllendorff laughed at such ideas of punctuality, so we allowed an hour for delays. When the morning came we found we had done rightly, and that we might even have allowed something more. Of twenty-two ponies which were to have been on the spot overnight, only eight had appeared by 9 A.M., and while a search was being made for the defaulters, some of the others slipped away. Patience and energy, however, won the day, and by noon we were all on the move.

A curious feature of the packing was the manner in which the first package was placed on the pony's back. The pack consisted of little more than a substantial pad, with a very small wooden frame, across which ropes could be passed. The weight of the burden therefore had to be equally divided in order to balance itself, and the heaviest package was always the first slung, as it gave a key to the distribution of the rest. This was always passed over the pony's back, and fixed in a loop on the other side, instead of the more natural course being followed of lowering the loop to the package. In any case it must be difficult for a man to load a pony single-handed, but by the method employed the feat was rendered impossible.

We formed an imposing procession in point of numbers, counting four Europeans, three or four Chinese, and about a score of Coreans. Theoretically every pony was under charge of a different driver, but as a matter of fact there were some which had not their drivers with them, and which in consequence never lost an opportunity of stopping the whole caravan, and, failing that, contented themselves with acting as a check on the pace of the others.

Before we got out of the city, the train broke up into two parts, and Paterson disappeared with the leading portion. Morrison and I were rather

anxious as to his fate, but thought it well to stay by the luncheon basket, and before we had gone six miles we had taken good measures to prevent its contents being lost.

The road which we were taking leads from Soul to Gensan, which port, though almost due north of the capital, is the nearest point on the east coast. A smooth white sand, composed of the detritus washed down from the mountains, made a capital road in the valley, which was entered after one or two small hills immediately outside the city wall had been crossed. There were rice-fields by the side of the road, and we passed through several villages, which depended upon the custom of travellers and their beasts, but the labourers' cottages, as a rule, stood at the foot of the hills away from the road. Where many of them were clustered together, they were generally surrounded by a wattle fence, built both for privacy and as a defence against depredators, four-footed and others. Public privies, similarly protected, stood at the entrances to the villages, and, as a rule, the road outside the houses was singularly free from garbage and filth of all kinds. The houses themselves seemed to have gathered all that is foul into their courtyards or under their eaves.

Of the villages which stood by the roadside, the most part were protected by a moon-shaped ram-

part of earth, outside of which trenches had been dug to carry off torrents from the mountains, when swollen by heavy storms of rain. But for this defence the houses might at times have been exposed to some danger, and the soil for a considerable distance would have been carried away even more completely than was the case.

The mountain, from whose sides come the dreaded torrents, is exceedingly picturesque. Through a crust of disintegrated granite, three horns of solid rock have thrust themselves 300 to 400 feet high. As seen from a distance, not an object breaks the smooth monotony of their polished sides. In parts there is a brighter sheen from the light being caught by water trickling over the face, and the same cause has produced a crack in one or two places, but the general effect is as that of a huge cone of blue steel risen suddenly from the earth.

Many of the hills round these peaks bear on their sides and crests huge boulders of granite, left like perched rocks by a glacier. The soft material at their base has been carried away by storms and rain, while they remain untouched, and in their curious grouping and strange forms as seen against the skyline, give free scope for the fancy inclined to clothe them with mysterious attributes. Some 3000 feet up, near "the horns," glimpses were

caught of a wall, and gateways pierced in it; beyond which lies the northern hill fortress of Soul. In it are granaries, Buddhist temples with monk soldiers, and a beautiful park of large extent, chiefly famous at the present day for its maples, which in autumn are as gorgeous as the azaleas of the southern fortress are in spring. The strength of the fortress, from a Corean point of view, is in its position surrounded by steep mountains, which have but one narrow gap open to attack.

By the time we had reached the north shoulder of these hills, the day was far spent, and our train greatly scattered. Of Paterson and his party no sign had been seen since he left his host's quarters; Morrison had disappeared somewhere; and the interpreter was not to be found. The effect would have been depressing, but fortunately my pony driver created a diversion. I had already discovered that his rosy face and constant smiles meant much wine, and complete indifference to all else but tobacco. Of the pony I had learnt that he was too tired to carry me. I had therefore got off to walk, and on turning round became aware that the driver had usurped my place in the saddle. The pony caught my eye, kicked his master off, and was away in an instant after a string of ponies travelling by another road. Pleasant indeed was the sight of the man's discomfiture and the thought of his long

pursuit of his charge. The last three miles were as nothing after such a cheering event; and when I found Paterson with some ponies and some Chinamen in a street that ran between some twenty cabins, I felt that things were indeed going well. "What kind of quarters are they?" I asked. "Hardly good enough for a dog," said Paterson It was then too dark to gain more than a vague impression of the character of the buildings. But, as we passed through a gateway into the courtyard, there came an occasional gleam from a pile of brushwood burning in the centre of the yard, or a glimmer from a wick soused in oil, which revealed the presence of a line of sheds, in which some twenty-five ponies were standing. So small was the space into which they were crowded, that standing with their packs on they formed a continuous ring, only broken on the entrance side by some low mud buildings. The drivers were hard at work getting rid of the packs in order to make room for later arrivals, and in the darkness we stept off a frying-pan on to a retriever, and from him into the plates. A low lattice shutter filled in with paper, and measuring about three feet by two, swung against a mud wall about two feet from the ground. Pushing it aside, Paterson said, "That is our room," and disclosed a kennel just large enough to hold two small mattresses. There was

not room for a basin or a gun-case besides, and as we crept in we knocked our heads against the beams which crossed from side to side.

The thought that first suggested itself was that the dogs must be badly housed, if this was all that we had; but as there was nothing better to be had, we made the best of it. By degrees the rest of the ponies arrived, and by the time they were all in, the cook had an excellent dinner ready. This was served in a room of about the same size, boxes serving as tables, and the floor as chairs. Unfortunately one rash man attempted to put a leaf into his table, a piece of carpentering which robbed two of us of the contents of our soup plates. This, however, was the only serious misadventure that attended the meal.

When it was over we looked round the place more carefully, and were amazed at the number of living creatures within it. Besides ponies, of which there were nearly forty in the sheds, and their drivers, numbering nearly as many, there were some other travellers, and our own little party of four Europeans and half a dozen Chinese. In addition to these there were the landlord's own family, and two watchmen, who sat by the side of a bonfire, in the middle of the courtyard, smoking pipe after pipe, and telling story after story, right through the night. Where every one slept I cannot imagine,

and for fear of complaints we took good care not to inquire. For ourselves—Paterson and I crept into our kennel, and after propping open the kennel door, divested ourselves cautiously of our clothes. Even with the utmost caution we did not avoid one or two bumps on the head from the beams overhead, but they were not sufficient to prevent a good night's sleep.

The day was pretty early when our world began to move. A wooden bowl and a brass basin had to suffice for our washing vessels, but the frosty air playing on our naked bodies seemed uncommonly cleanly, and had evidently sufficed for the Coreans, who watched our ablutions. Breakfast and repacking the ponies occupied a long time, and it was late before we got off. The first three miles of the road wound up the course of a little stream overhung with trees. Clumps of fir and patches of low wood on the hills near at hand looked likely ground for pheasants, but none were seen. On crossing over the hills into the valley of another stream, which also runs into the Han, we first passed through many chestnut orchards, and then came on a large tract cultivated as rice land. A very large species of crane was feeding on this ground, but attempts to stalk them were barren of result. The pony drivers waited to see what happened, and the result was that we did not reach our halting-place until

late. Morrison had prepared us for a foul inn—he had seen it in summer—but we would not allow that he could have seen it at its worst. The flies swarmed on the walls; plates of rice left for an instant uncovered became coated with them; the rooms reeked of fly blow; and eating in such an atmosphere was impossible.

The village was quite a small place, but a number of travellers had halted there for the mid-day meal. Most of them were leading ponies laden with salt fish, which was being brought from the east coast to the capital, and the booths in the street were well stocked with herrings and bonitos.

A few miles before reaching this village we had come across some very curious figures by the road-side. On either side of the road there were planted wooden posts, of which one face had been roughly planed, and on the higher part was a very rude carving representing a human face with very prominent teeth. A little colouring was used for the teeth and cheeks, and the general appearance was sufficiently fiendish. These figures, called *syou-sal-mak-i*, are intended, as far as I could gather, to frighten away spirits from villages and roads, and are frequently met with throughout the country. The mile posts, called *ffjang-seung*, are often similarly decorated, and no doubt with the same purpose.

Another very remarkable object was a rough

flat stone, about seven feet square, resting on two small upright stones, placed at the north and south ends. All that local tradition could tell about it was that the stones had been placed there by the Japanese during their last invasion of the country, "to repress earthly influences." Similar dolmens are not uncommon in Japan, so that there may be some truth in their history.

On the other side of the stream which passed the village was a little hill, on which there were traces of an ancient city, of which I could learn nothing. The road followed the stream downwards for some miles, and crossed it by a rude bridge composed of poles resting on wooden piles, and on which were laid bundles of brushwood filled in with earth. The scenery was very pretty even at that time of the year. Both to the north and south there was a distant view, embracing many mountain peaks, and the mountains to the east, along whose foot the road passed, contained several attractive gorges. The formation was all of granite, and part of it auriferous. At Mansitari, where a stream from the east joined the main river, gold washings had been worked successfully for many years after the summer floods, in spite of official opposition and severe punishments. The washings were all of the same kind, and the sifting was worked with common wooden bowls. Only the surface sand had

really been examined, as the men did not dig pits of more than a few feet in depth.

Towards sundown we came to a little village, where, to our great surprise, the leading ponies had halted. We had looked forward to comfortable quarters at the official's residence in the neighbouring town of Yŏng-phyŏng, and were greatly disconcerted at the change of plan. The Corean interpreter, who spoke Chinese, was at the extreme tail of the train, and the only manner of carrying on conversation under the circumstances was by writing Chinese characters on the ground. In this way we learnt that the drivers had taken the matter into their own hands, and leaving Yŏng-phyŏng, which stands a little off the main road, on the west, had followed the main road. After all, the inn turned out to be a vast improvement on that of the preceding night, and by degrees we became reconciled to events.

On the 18th we left the stream that we had followed during the previous day, and crossing another branch of it, ascended a valley with a very gentle rise, the sides of which were richly wooded. The road was narrow, and passed between banks covered with low shrubs. Masses of clematis in seed passed over the bushes, among which were the *Euonymus alatus* and a species of hawthorn, and the trailing stems of *Pueraria Thunberyiana* were on ground and trees alike.

Our halt at mid-day seemed unnecessarily prolonged, and drove us out into the street to seek the cause. There we found two of the pony drivers stretched on the ground, and some soldiers beating them on their bare buttocks with flat rods. Naturally we inquired the reason, and, pending an answer, the flogging stopped. It turned out that the soldiers who formed our escort should have been relieved at this village, as it lay in a new jurisdiction, but no men had turned up, and the official who accompanied us laid the blame for the men's non-appearance on the pony drivers. We interceded on their behalf. The official protested, urging that it was good for Coreans to be flogged. The soldiers stood awaiting orders, the drivers lay shivering on the ground, and the crowd gathered round to examine us. At length the official gave way, and the men were allowed to depart. The incident apparently pointed to a theory that, where there was mismanagement, some victim should be punished, and at such a time prudent men would do well to keep in the background.

The afternoon's walk took us again over low heights, prettily wooded, down to a river's bank, where a flock of pink ibis (*Ibis nippon*) sent us into raptures of admiration. None of us had ever seen them before, and the sight of these beautiful birds made us hope that fresh discoveries might await us further on.

A little further on we crossed the river by a bridge which had been recently repaired, and pushed on on foot. The night was coming on, and our arrival caused a considerable commotion in the little village near the bridge, which we explained by their fears for our safety. The road followed the river bank unmistakably leading to our destination, and we hurried on in spite of cries to stop. By the time we had walked some three miles, it became quite dark, and just as we were bewailing our position, a light blazed out behind us, and a second, and a third. Some of the villagers had hurried after us with bundles of dry reeds, which they lit as torches to guide us on our way. On overtaking us, they took us quite into their protection, pointing out every stone in the road, and shouting at the top of their voices. By the time their torches were at their last gasp, there came another band of men evidently sent to meet us. They lighted us on our way and handed us over to yet another company, who took us through an avenue of trees, succeeded by a long line of upright stone slabs, into the town of Kim-hoa. This was the first town we had entered, but in the half darkness we could see little of it. Suddenly we found ourselves confronted by some servants who had been sent by the magistrate to greet us. They were clad from head to foot in oil-paper, for rain had come on, and were carrying

lanterns of iron frames, from which hung down long fringes of red gauze to screen the candles inside from the wind. The yellow oil-paper clothes, the red lanterns, and the swaying torches made a pleasant picture, the pleasure of which was immensely increased by the cordiality of the welcome given to us.

Following our guides a few hundred yards, we were conducted into a courtyard, at one side of which was a line of buildings raised considerably above the ground. A room of some thirty feet in length opened on to some stone steps. In the room was no furniture of any kind whatever, except some clean grass matting on the floor. At one end of the room a piece was partitioned off by shutters covered with paper, which could be lifted up and fastened back against the ceiling if desired; and at the extreme end there were some recesses in the wall, which served as cupboards. But the recesses were disguised by doors, fitting into and flush with the wall. The floor and ceiling were papered with a dirty coloured oil-paper, which served to prevent dust filtering in; and the walls, windows, and doors had a uniform covering of white paper without any pattern.

We had not long to wait for our ponies and luggage,—rain has always the effect of expediting drivers' movements,—and before long we had our

dinner served in a manner that made us forget the discomforts of the two previous nights.

Early in the morning there came a message from our host, who was the chief official of the place, asking after our healths, and proposing to call on us. Soon after breakfast he came, attended by thirty or forty of his men. He was carried in a small open



OFFICIAL ON CHAIR, WITH LEOPARD'S SKIN.

arm-chair, over the back of which was thrown a leopard's skin. A man at each side supported him as he moved slowly across the room, after taking off his shoes, and after one or two phrases of ceremony, he squatted down on the mats with us. He was evidently very nervous, though anxious to please, and conversation did not make great strides. He spoke much of a Chinese of considerable standing,

whose acquaintance he had recently made, and after some trouble we discovered that he alluded to Morrison's servant, who had arrived a few days before us with some baggage. What rank the man had claimed we did not learn, but evidently it was something high. China likewise was spoken of with the utmost respect, while of England little was said.

His courtesy towards us was at the same time extreme. He pressed us to stay for some time, to make any use we liked of the quarters as a depot for our stores or otherwise, or to claim his assistance in any way we liked. After taking two or three puffs from a cigar which was offered to him, he handed it to his attendants, who passed it on from mouth to mouth until it reached the crowd outside. A glass of brandy, which he tasted, was greatly relished, but characterised as very heady, and left unfinished.

After staying some ten minutes he returned to his own rooms, which were in a courtyard at some distance from our own. The buildings forming his official residence were very considerable, being contained in six or seven different courtyards, and being all built of brick, with tiled roofs and stone foundations. In the town I do not recollect seeing any but mud huts, and the contrast was consequently very striking. But, as a matter of fact, the town had little existence apart from the official and his

staff. He probably had 200 men attached to him, and the town was not supposed to contain more than 200 huts or cabins, among which there were no shops, the trade of the place being



EGG-SELLER.

confined to markets, which occurred every ten days. The poverty of the place could not be realised in a day. It was necessary first to have wants and to experience the impossibility of meeting them. At the time we thought that obstacles were thrown in the way of buying things from the people, for we could

not procure anything except from the stores of the official. Rice, honey, cash, and beans, for the ponies were each in turn borrowed or bought from him. In eggs alone was the local supply equal to our demand.

This place had been chosen as our headquarters, as being in the heart of the mining district, near to Soul, and, according to report, within reach of good shooting ground. We left our traps therefore here, Paterson, Morrison, and Velschow going to examine a silver mine at a place called Feng-tung, about nine miles off, and I in search of the pink ibis which we had seen the previous day. They were the more fortunate, for they found a disused shaft, and were able to obtain some specimens of the galena, and to rent part of one of the largest cabins near the mine. Paterson also shot three ducks on the road, while I saw no ibis and only a few ducks though there were plenty of mergansers and divers. The people were extraordinarily civil, one man walking several hundred yards out of his way in order to get me a duck which fell on the other side of the river.

The evening was spent in talk of mines, and in watching galena dissolve under blowpipes. For want of proper cupels, charcoal cups were made, and the experiments necessarily were very rude, but none the less interesting.

The next morning we returned our host's visit, our arrival being announced by a bell pulled from the outer gate, the cord of which traversed the court to the reception room. Our host, with a swarm of servants, was standing at the top of the steps ready to greet us, and led the way into a room, the perfection of neatness, but destitute of all furniture but the mats on the floor and small pillows, covered with matting. We were excused taking off our laced boots, but the Coreans who entered left their shoes outside.

The visit was weighted by the nervousness of our host, who was still impressed, not by us, but by Morrison's Chinese servant, in whose honour a dinner had been given the previous evening. Long straight pipes with brass bowls and mouthpieces, and cups of ginger-water hot were produced, but failed to drive away the stiffness of the proceeding. But an invitation to return, and a promise to look after some heavy baggage that was left in his care, showed that there was no lack of friendliness.

As soon as the visit had ended, we started off with an immense train of ponies to the mines at Feng-tung. On leaving the town, we found that the upright slabs, which had been dimly seen on the night of our arrival, were commemorative of various magistrates whose administration had given satisfaction to the people of the place. Some of the

slabs were of iron, but most of them were of stone. The inscriptions carved on them were invariably in Chinese character, and generally very concise.

Where the rows of tablets ended, an avenue of trees began. This led down to the main road, which passed some half mile away from the official residence. From the branches of the trees hung down ropes of various lengths, which had either served for swings or had been intended as offerings to the spirits of the place.

Once out of the town the scenery began to change. So far the road had lain through country chiefly composed of granite, the loose disintegrated soil of which served as poor holding ground for herbage exposed to the ravages of fuel cutters, but further east the hills were chiefly of metamorphic sandstone, on which the woods, when left standing, gave dense cover. The trees and bushes in these spots were matted together by masses of Pueraria, through which it was hard to fight a way. In trying one of them for game, I started a deer, but was quite unable to get my gun to bear on it for the long creepers in the way. High up the hillside a party of Coreans were beating some cover with dogs, either for deer or pheasants, and the little stream which ran along the valley held some wild-fowl, and among them a couple of mandarin duck.

Villages were very scarce, and such houses as were seen all lay in the valley. At Kim-hoa we had left the high road, which runs from Soul to Gensan on



BRUSHWOOD-CUTTER.

the east coast. Still the path which we followed was in very fair order. Men and ponies were, however, the only beasts of burden employed on it, bulls not being used except on the main lines of traffic. At one or two places disused mines were seen. Copper

had been found at one or two points, and galena was spoken of as being pretty rich in silver in many places in this district.

M. Velschow remained at Feng-tung with some Chinese to see what could be done there, and after two days' stay, P., M., and I started off to examine the various mines of which we could hear. Our first day's journey led through exquisite scenery. Woods of birch, maple, and oak, intersected by frozen streams, and some with rocks buried in lichens, recalled memories of Kerry, and drove aside all thoughts of lunch. About 3 P.M. it was deemed necessary, however, to call a halt, and soon afterwards, on leaving the woods, the scenery became more impressive, the scarped face of the mountains being cut into terraces and towers, on which fir trees alone had found a footing. Charmed with the surroundings, we loitered on until twilight came upon us. Then we toiled along to catch the ponies, and finding some not far ahead, thought we were close to our destination. A bright light in a distant village was recognised as our stable lamp, but on closer acquaintance proved to be a common Corean lantern. Another ridge of hills had to be climbed in the dark, and as we topped it torches were seen moving ahead. After stumbling down the path in the dark, we came on our men on the bank of a wide river, waiting for the ferry boat, for

which they had been shouting at the top of their voices. Meanwhile the rest of the train were descending the hill, and sparks from their torches had dropped in the dry grass and formed a belt of fire some distance on either side of the path.

The evening was very cold, and the drivers soon lost their temper, and began to threaten the tardy ferryman with terrible punishments. He naturally turned back to his own shore, and left us to cross the river as best we might. At last our interpreter, a sturdy Corean, found a shallow part in the river some distance up, where he managed to cross with one of the drivers. The two brought over the boat, and by detachments of three the ponies were eventually ferried across.

The village on the opposite bank had been deserted, and not a soul was to be found. We therefore encamped in the best house of the place, got together some firewood and charcoal, hunted up some stabling for the ponies, and ate our dinner. Still no one returned, so before we turned in for the night we sent a loud-voiced crier to shout to the hills and woods that we were no enemies nor brigands, but travellers willing to pay for food and lodging; and when morning came, the master of the house and the villagers were all occupied in their usual concerns, as though nothing had occurred over-night to startle them. No allusion was made

by them or us to the misunderstanding, except perhaps in the bill, where the item of "one village" for accommodation was indirectly included.

After a day's halt at this place, where the people showed no signs of fear after the first night's alarm, we recrossed the stream which was then (25th November) half frozen, and retracing part of our previous route, struck across country to Kim-syöng. Somehow our party became disorganised, and late in the day I found myself with only the "tiger hunter," who had joined us at our last stopping-place. As we were far from our destination, we pushed on apace, but after a while he craved a short grace, and turned into a wine shop. The room was so small that it seemed impossible that eight men could squat down in it, but eight men were there eating a very decent-looking meal of rice and green vegetables and turnips, flavoured with soy, and washed down with many cups of wine. They pressed me to join them, but were content to take a pipe of tobacco instead of my company, and then turned to their food. A glass of whisky from my flask, and permission to stroke my spaniels, served to remove all shyness, and the only obstacle to a lively conversation lay in the fact that I did not understand them. When the tiger hunter had warmed himself sufficiently with hot wine, we started off, and after an eight miles' tramp reached the town of Kim-

syöng, where official quarters had been assigned us. Unfortunately we had not time or light to examine some tiger traps which we passed by the roadside. They appeared to consist of huts made of logs of wood, in the roof of which were heavy beams resting on a forked stick, beneath which the bait was placed, and which a very slight movement would dislodge.

P. and M. turned up an hour later, but one of the Chinese horse boys did not arrive until the next day. This man had gone to sleep while riding, become separated from the rest of the party, and been carried by his pony to some village, where he had spent the night.

Kim-syöng is a town of not more than 300 or 400 cabins, but boasts a magistrate, who is as finely lodged as his colleague at Kim-hoa. He gave us very good rooms, but otherwise was not very civil. Rumour had it that a silver mine lay almost immediately behind his house, and he evidently feared that we were going to take the treasure, which was almost in his own pocket.

Had he not desired to get rid of us, he might easily have procured us excellent shooting, for deer and pheasants are plentiful there, and tigers and mountain antelope (*A. caudata*) are to be found in the mountains near to the town, but, though questioned on the subject, he gave us no informa-

tion, and our tiger hunter was of no use either then or at any time during the journey.

After exploring the country round Kim-syöng, we struck north again, following the main road for some fifteen miles. The roofs of many of the cabins at Kim-syöng were made of a kind of slate, and about five miles north of the town we came into a large plain covered with waving grass. Near the far end this was traversed by a river, the waters of which had cut through nearly 100 feet of the lava of which the plain was composed, leaving precipitous walls on either bank. Insufficiency of soil must be the cause of this plain remaining uncultivated, but it seemed strange that the grass had not been considered worth cutting.

As had been generally our fate, we were again benighted. The frost had each night increased in intensity, and by the time we reached the tiny hamlet where we were to sleep, we were pretty well frozen, but we had to wait some little time outside in order to allow the women to remove from the cabin assigned to us. This was smaller than anything that we had seen, but we were uncommonly glad to have a place to sleep in at all.

Early the next morning I found a flock of pink ibis, which Paterson undertook to drive towards me. One bird flew straight to me, and it would be difficult to find a more beautiful piece of colouring

than the flesh-coloured tints of this bird as seen against the clear sky. Much of the beauty disappeared soon after death, and I never had the heart to fire at one of these beautiful birds afterwards.

The object of this excursion into the mountains was to inspect a silver working, whose fame proved to have rested on very slender foundations. Coming back from the place, I followed the crest of a line of hills, and came across a succession of traps formed apparently on the cross-bow principle. They made the walking very uncomfortable, but it was almost impossible to walk except on the crest where they were placed, for the thickets on the side of the hill were almost impervious, owing to the dense tangle of creepers.

Our quarters were again bad, even worse than before. It was impossible to keep the door of the room closed on account of the stench: a frozen pool of filth was the only thing that then intervened between our beds and the bulls that were eating their hot mess of beans and water in the troughs in the yard. The dogs had to share their bed with the poultry, for our luggage had ousted the fowls from their proper corner.

Once again we started off prospecting, and in the afternoon of the second day found ourselves ascending a steep valley which led into the heart of the mountains. I had fallen behind the others, and

noticed that all the villagers whom I met looked very disturbed and anxious. After an ascent of about 1500 feet, I came upon our party, and learnt that a woman had been carried off the previous night from her hut by a tiger and devoured. A portion of a leg had been found, and this was now being burnt in a fire, near which some crows were hopping about in a horribly suggestive manner.

The villagers appealed to us to shoot the tiger, and we were glad to find ourselves near big game at last. They accordingly posted us at different points along the top of a ridge which commanded the ravine in which they thought the tiger was lying, and then drove up the hill towards us. The whole business was badly organised, however, and after a repetition of the same kind of performance in another valley, we abandoned it in disgust.

Paterson seemed to take the failure to heart, as he had counselled waiting till the morrow, and he struck off on a line of his own towards some rather extensive mines which he wished to see.

Morrison and I turned home, got into our slippers, and wrote up our diaries. Dinner was ready, but Paterson had not appeared; the night was pitch dark, the mountain paths were coated with ice, and one tiger at any rate was somewhere in the neighbourhood; so we got into our boots again, and started out with lanterns and guns in search of

the absentee. After three-quarters of an hour we heard a shot fired in answer to one of ours, and made our way to the place, where we found Paterson bathed in perspiration. He had started on a straight cut home, and kept the direction in spite of the darkness, but numerous falls, and the difficulty of keeping his footing, had made his progress very slow and toilsome.

The next day we made another and more serious attempt to find the tiger, but the beaters would not face the worst parts of the cover, and many portions of the hillside had been fired immediately after the woman's death had been discovered. Whether the beast had been scared away, or the beaters had failed to stir him was uncertain; but we were told that there was still a chance left, for the presence of our ponies would be very likely to attract a tiger in the night.

Snow began to fall the next morning, and we made our way down to lower ground before the paths became impracticable. A heavy snowstorm caught us that afternoon on our way back to Kim-syöng, and the next day we struck across the hills to Feng-tung to see what progress had been made there. The most prominent change, in my eyes, was due to the construction of a table. At last we were able to eat once more in a natural position, and without twisting our bodies in angles most unfavour-

able to digestion. The cold by this time had become intense, and had produced the most wolfish appetites; but even with a keen appetite, comfort of position is appreciated at dinner.

While stopping in the little cottage at Feng-tung, the greater part of which had been rented by Paterson, we were amazed at the seclusion in which the women of the house contrived to remain. I do not recollect having seen one of them; but at night a faint murmur from some woman sending a baby to sleep betrayed the existence of the other sex. As the cottage belonged to a common labourer, the retirement in which these women lived must have thrown a considerable amount of ordinary house-work upon the head of the house, but the state of things here was the same as we had seen elsewhere.

The cold at this time (4th December) was very great. We had been forced to husband our spirits, and had been drinking cold water, but now water poured into our pewter cups at dinner turned instantly into a mass of light flakes of ice and in this shape was not an acceptable beverage. When we called on our men to come out shooting with us, they all cried off, and in the whole village the only persons we discovered who would brave the cold for money were two small boys. We were not sorry, therefore, to get back to Kim-hoa, but the first night we slept there we suffered from the other extreme, for the

air-chamber beneath the room was heated to such an extent that all our bedding was scorched, and we were nigh sharing the fate of some vaseline in an open bottle, which melted entirely away.

The wild duck had come into the river with the cold weather, and we had one day's very good wild-fowl shooting; after which we took farewell of our kind host, carrying away with us large quantities of honey to be distributed among our friends at Shanghai. The honey was packed, according to the custom of the country, in logs which had been hollowed out, and perhaps in consequence of this manner of packing was by no means appreciated, but on the spot it had struck us as excellent.

Turning our backs on Kim-hoa, we returned to Soul by easy stages. On the second day out we happened to pass through a village on fair day. Looking-glasses in wooden cases three inches long, aniline dyes, silk tassels for tobacco-pouches, and cotton socks were some of the principal wares exposed for sale; but we had considerable difficulty in getting a small quantity of ordinary wall-paper. It is true that the village was quite a small one, but the display of goods was larger than at any place we had seen for eight days past.

The traffic on the road between Kim-hoa and Soul was considerable. Fish was being carried in large quantities from the east coast to the capital,

and some loads of copper ore from the north-eastern province attracted our attention. The wrappers used for packing were generally of straw, but in some cases of human hair, which from exposure to rain and sun looked much liked cocoanut fibre.

One incident on the way to Soul is worth recalling as evidence of the extreme difficulties attending trade in Corea. It had been necessary to send to Soul for copper cash with which to pay the workmen at the mine at Feng-tung. Two ponies laden with 24,000 cash (the equivalent at the time of about $30 or £5 : 7 : 6), and accompanied by two drivers, were placed in charge of two soldiers, who were to escort this treasure to the mine; but both drivers and soldiers refused to face the risk unless accompanied by a Chinese servant. We met the party about thirty miles from Soul, and it was interesting to note the change wrought in a timid Chinese servant by the novel sense of acting as a protector to others.

From what we had seen on the trip, it was hard to draw other than unfavourable conclusions. Of all the mines we had visited only one was being worked. Only once had we seen any piece of smelted silver, and that, if I recollect aright, was not worth more than nine or ten dollars. The prohibition against unlicensed gold-washing was

known to be enforced with rigour, but if gold were in any quantity, ornaments of it must exist, and in the absence of such ornaments in the shops in Soul, it was safe to conclude that the yield of gold was very small. The demand for copper must be considerable, as all the utensils of the table are of brass, and the cash currency of the country contains a certain proportion of copper, but the mines near Soul were not sufficiently profitable to be worked on a large scale. Of iron we had seen little, and it is not much used, except for some kitchen utensils and agricultural tools, entering but little into the construction of either houses or boats.

From a sporting point of view, the trip had been a great failure, but there were many gains to counterbalance this drawback. The scenery had never failed to charm, the weather had, with the exception of one or two days, been bright and cheery, the people invariably civil, and wherever we went perfect novelty awaited us. None the less, it was pleasant to get back to Soul, and to stay with such kind hosts as M. von Möllendorff and his wife. After our experiences in the mountains, Soul seemed quite mild, but the river at Mapu, in spite of its width and its current, was almost frozen over. The roads too had become so slippery with ice, that most of the pack bulls were shod with iron, in order to give them a securer footing. The bulls were always cast

for shoeing, and one of the common roadside sights was a bull lying outside a farrier's shop, waiting for the man to finish his pipe.

After nearly a week's rest, we started off to Chemulpo, where we expected to find our steamer, but no steamer was there. No inn had yet been built, and we were glad to be able to lie down on the floor of a plank-built house, which had been erected by Captain Schultz, the harbour-master, in the airiest part of the settlement. M. von Möllendorff arrived in time to secure six and a half feet of flooring for himself, and the four of us, with our rugs, filled all the available sleeping space that even the most hospitable of men could put at our disposal.

The next morning a steamer arrived with the news that our good steamer, the *Nanzing*, had passed her two days previously. There were no signs of her, however, that day, nor yet the next, and at last in despair we pulled off to a Chinese steamer which was leaving with the Chinese Commissioner and M. von Möllendorff for Fusan. When on board we were told that there was no room for us, but this we knew already, and were quite prepared to rough it. Our luggage, dogs, and servants were coming off in boats from the shore, but when within 300 yards of the steamer were unable to make way against the tide. All that could be done was to send off a dinghy and rescue a small port-

manteau for each of us, after which the steamer weighed anchor, and left the unfortunate Chinese servants to look after themselves and our properties for another three weeks at Chemulpo.

As there was no saloon accommodation, Morrison and I shared a cabin in the steerage, and suffered greatly the first night from a loose chain swinging about in the hold. The next night the chain was fastened up and we slept well, the result being that my only portmanteau was missing in the morning. Search was promptly made for it, and it was discovered in the forward part of the ship with nothing missing but some dollars, which I had hoped to spend on Corean curios. There was little doubt that the money had been stolen by a Corean servant, who was on his way to Fusan, and who had seen the contents of the portmanteau. He was stripped before landing, but none of the spoil was on him, and he bade me adieu with smiles which were repeated when next we met. Often as our things had been left in the open air in the country for want of house-room, we had not missed a single thing, so that we could speak highly of the honesty of Coreans where they had not been affected by foreign intercourse, but we had heard much of the change that had followed the introduction of foreign notions as to the proper punishment for theft.

Fusan, though in Corea, was a purely Japanese

town, in which no Coreans resided. A few Chinese had of late found their way thither, and had opened some shops, but these had been closed by the Japanese authorities. The Chinese Commissioner had in consequence come down to see what arrangements could be made for his nationals, and M. von Möllendorff had come with him on the same errand. This policy of seclusion on the part of the Japanese was a somewhat striking commentary on the change which they themselves had introduced into Corea in 1876. Necessarily it could not last, and after nearly three hundred years complete possession by the Japanese, the restrictions on foreigners in Fusan were broken down, as those of Corea had been a few years previously.

At Fusan our visit to Corea terminated. The agent of the steamer by which we had come was induced to send her direct by Shanghai. The risk was rather great, as we had no ballast on board, and the supply of coals was short; but no north wind came to bear us down to Hong Kong, and on Christmas Eve we reached Shanghai just in time for dinner.

CHAPTER V

Chemulpo—Exchange of ratifications—Corean grandees—Audience of the king—Explore the Han River—Sir H. Parkes's departure—Local surroundings—Scenery—Flora—Birds—Tides—Fogs—Trade—Floods—Consulate-General.

In the spring of 1884 Sir H. Parkes went to Corea to exchange ratifications of the treaty which he had negotiated the previous year. Mr. W. G. Aston, who had been appointed to act provisionally as Consul-General in Corea, and Mr. Hillier, accompanied Sir Harry; and I went *viâ* Japan to meet them at Chemulpo, at which place I had been instructed to take up my quarters as H.M. Vice-Consul in Corea.

But little change was to be seen since the previous winter in Chemulpo. A few more Japanese had erected neat board-houses, a score or two more of straw huts had been run up by Corean squatters, and the presence of foreigners had become so far a matter of custom that Corean women had opened some refreshment stalls in the streets. Roads, jetties, and sea-walls were still in embryo, but the

necessity for their construction was supposed to be pressing.

On the 25th April Sir H. Parkes left for Soul with his staff, including Mr. Aston and Mr. Hillier, and taking with him his daughter and her maid, who were, I believe, the first Englishwomen who set foot in Soul.

The exchange of ratifications in Soul was announced to take place on the 28th, and two Corean ministers came down to witness the firing of a salute on board H.M.S. *Cleopatra* in honour of the king, at the time the exchange took place. They were both in full dress, which, away from the capital, includes an outer robe of dark blue gauze, with red sleeves and orange shoulder-pieces. The most striking portion of the dress, however, was a throat-lash of beads, alternately amber and red cornelian, passed under the chin, and serving at the same time to keep the hat in place and to cool the cheek and throat. Governor Min Yong Mok, who was one of the two ministers, made himself especially liked on board ship, and responded very courteously to a toast proposed by Captain Hippisley in honour of his majesty, the King of Corea. A large retinue accompanied the ministers, and it was a difficult matter to provide boats for all who accompanied them on board; but the proceedings passed off without a hitch, and certainly contributed to

the popularity of the Coreans with Her Majesty's navy.

On the 1st May Sir Harry presented a letter from Her Majesty to the King of Corea. Captain



OFFICERS OF THE KING'S COURT.

Hippisley and five other officers of H.M.S. *Cleopatra* were also present, as well as Mr. Aston and myself. Sir H. Parkes was received by several of the king's ministers, who were soberly dressed in robes of a deep reddish-purple. Round their waists passed a

stiff girdle, formed of flat plates of horn or cornelian, joined together into a stiff hoop which stood out some inches from their sides. Instead of the hats worn by ordinary Coreans, all these officers and the eunuchs about the court wore caps with wings set at right angles to the head, and slightly inclined forward.

After a little delay, Sir Harry was received by the king in a building which was open to the south, and raised several feet above the courtyard. On either side of His Majesty stood a man with a drawn sword, but the king's demeanour was most gracious. His dress was remarkably simple, differing little from that of his courtiers, except in the composition of the belt and in the fastenings of the cap. The few remarks which he addressed to Sir Harry were delivered in a very simple manner, and were of a friendly nature. The interview was apparently witnessed by several others than the courtiers in attendance, as eyes could be seen peeping through holes in the paper lattice-work, of which the sides of the room were composed; and the marine who bore the casket containing the queen's letter probably created a deep impression from his fine bearing and figure.

As a spectacle, the ceremony was disappointing. The reception room was inferior in size and style to many of those contained in the residence of a Chinese official of high rank. The dresses of the officers of

the court were less striking than those worn on more ordinary occasions, and the furniture of the room had been robbed even of the charm of simplicity by the introduction of a German carpet of coarse pattern and colours. But, spectacle apart, every detail connected with the ceremonial was in pleasant contrast with those of eleven years earlier, on a similar occasion not far from Corea. Courtesy, consideration, and friendly feeling were evident in every act and word, and no one could have left the palace without being strongly impressed by the king's evident desire to do everything that in him lay to testify to his good-will towards the minister who represented Great Britain for the first time at his court.

The same evening a large dinner party was given at the Foreign Office, but unfortunately in European style, and the only Corean feature of the entertainment was the introduction into the room of a band of pipes and stringed instruments, which had been sent by the king.

The next morning my Chinese servant was not to be found, and it turned out that he had been arrested by the police, on his way home from dining with a friend, on the charge of being out in the streets after dark, in the hours set apart for women to take their exercise. He was released as soon as the police learnt that his story was true, but it was

wonderful how little he cared afterwards about dining out.

A few days later I returned to Chemulpo with two of the officers of H.M.S. *Cleopatra*, in order to make an exploring trip up the River Han. Taking



BAND OF MUSICIANS.

a cutter in tow of the steam-launch, we passed between the island of Kanghoa and the mainland, in sight of the forts which had been taken by the American expedition in 1871. Part of the island was skirted by a wall of masonry, and another wall was seen running along the ridge of some hills on

the main shore. At the narrowest part, which is about 250 yards wide, a sharp bend in the river and the strength of the stream created an overlapping wave extending almost across the river. The boats crossed without difficulty, and the rapids above proved much less formidable than had been expected. Crossing the stream backwards and forwards to take soundings, we came at last suddenly upon a rock, and the abruptness of the shock upset a board laid across the boat as a provisional table. Almost the only thing lost was a watch, which slipped off unseen, and naturally was not to be found afterwards.

On reaching the north corner of the island, we found that the branch of the river, which has its outlet on that side, is of almost equal size with the other, and on turning up the main stream the channel was about a mile wide, until we reached the junction of the Im-jin, a large tributary of the Han. The strength of the current was so great that in the afternoon we anchored and awaited the turn of the tide. The country round was rather tame compared with the earlier part of the journey, and much of the land was under rice cultivation. The villagers were extraordinarily lacking in curiosity, and took but little notice of us. At night we slept in the launch, and the men in the cutter, after taking a strong dose of quinine all round.

The next day's journey was much more beset with difficulties on account of lack of water, the channel in one reach shallowing in the deepest part to five or six feet. A few rocks lay in the river, on one of which we struck, but no damage was done. When returning along this piece of the river, we struck on a bank, and, as the tide was falling, we were left there for some hours. The bank soon showed high and dry, and the boat sank in the sand almost to the gunwale, until it seemed that she would have to be dug out; but the moment the tide turned, the sand disappeared as by magic. The higher waters were decidedly the prettiest part of the journey, and the most lively, as some scores of boats were sailing up. One or two large horned owls were seen standing by the riverside, and a few mergansers and divers were moving about, but there was very little bird life, and the fish too seemed to be few, for hardly any fishermen were at work.

On arriving at Mapu, the steam-launch attracted a little more interest than elsewhere, but it was marvellous how quietly the boatmen looked upon their new rival. After waiting there two days, we returned to Chemulpo without any further mishap, beyond grounding on the sandbank and running on a rock in almost the worst part of the rapids. It was some little time before the launch and boat were got free, but no harm was done; and, thanks to

quinine, no ill effects from the trip showed themselves among the men, though a spaniel which I took with me died very shortly afterwards from fever caught on the journey.

A few days later Sir H. Parkes left for China, and after his departure it became an easy matter to realise what life in Corea meant. Mrs. Foote, the wife of the United States Minister in Soul, and a German and a Spanish lady at Chemulpo, were the only representatives of the other sex from abroad, and of European and American men there were about a dozen in Chemulpo, and half a score in the capital. No permanent houses had been built at Chemulpo, excepting the Japanese Consulate, but the Japanese town already numbered three or four streets of plank-built shops, in which Japanese wares of the simplest kind were displayed to view.

Rooms had been found for me in the upper story of the only two-storied house in the Japanese town. From the front windows I commanded a view of the sea, and, through the floor, of my landlord and his friends. On the beach outside all the refuse of the place was emptied, to be carried away and brought back by the tide. The streets were of mud, ankle-deep, and new roads were being cut on the hillside and through it. Immediately outside the Japanese settlement, and also occupying the greater part of the British settlement, were two

villages composed of straw huts, run up by natives who had come in search of employment. These huts were filthier than even the ordinary slums of a Corean town, for the men came without their families, and were quite content to pig it for a few months, if only they could save a dollar or two.

When the tides went out, the sea almost disappeared from view, and for miles and miles nothing was to be seen but mud banks intersected by streaks of water, and dotted here and there with an island or two. On one of these a party of coiners established themselves, intending to turn out some spurious Corean cash. Corean cash were quoted at about 170 to the Mexican dollar, or about a farthing apiece, so that the profits in no case could have been great. As it was, the business cost two men their heads as well as their small stock of ore.

When the tide was up, the place looked very pretty, and as it was only at high tide that steamers could come in, visitors generally formed a pleasant impression at the outset. From the little hill which had been chosen as the site of our Consulate, a view extended to the hills behind Kai-söng, forty miles away, and for a long distance out to sea and along the coast. The sides of the hill were steep, but covered with a profusion of *pueraria*, great tiger lilies, shrubs of guelder rose, and a few specimens

of the exquisite *campanula punctata*, together with scores of others.

The hills round were rich in flowers. *Iris Rossii*, *Akebia quinata*, and the wild rose, were some of the chief beauties. For a long time I sought in vain for the lily of the valley, of which I had heard, but at last I found it growing plentifully. The wild peony (*Pæonia moutan*) was not unfrequently seen. The roadsides were sweet with the fragrance of *Elæagnus*. The feathery heads of the *Julibrissin* waved in profusion, and tiny blue gentians studded the grass in the early morning. Lilies, yellow and red, disputed the palm of beauty with a pink *spiræa*, and *lespedezas* of various kinds were everywhere. The land indeed seemed a true paradise of flowers in comparison with Shanghai, and of trees there was an abundant variety also. Dwarf oaks, small pine trees, chestnuts in luxuriant flower, alders, elms, beech, *rhus semialata*, *Hemiptelea Davidii*, and persimmon trees were some of the more common; *Paulownias* and *Catalpas* were occasionally to be seen; and the *acanthopanax ricinifolia* and *Zelkowa acuminata* both grew to a considerable size.

But for the flowers, little diversion was to be obtained. Even when pleasure might have been expected it was not always found. I had hoped to have made many excursions in the Consular gig, but

the native crew were most difficult to train to row, and were nervous beyond all conception if the sail was hoisted. Preparations had to be made hours beforehand, if the boat were going to be used, as she had generally to be carried over 200 or 300 yards of mud to the waterside. All her gear had to be stored out of reach of thieves, and taken down to the boat. The jetty was of rough stones loosely thrown together and well calculated to stove in any boat, and occasionally a storm would endanger the existence of the boat when supposed to be far above the reach of the waves. Once the strength of the tide carried her away at night from her moorings, and a little later on she disappeared altogether, having in all probability been stolen, as was another foreign boat about the same time.

There were many obstacles also to riding. The grooms had to be taught everything: shoeing was impossible, until a farrier was brought over from Shanghai; sore backs were constant; and there was no possibility of getting saddlery altered or repaired. Except for riding to and from Soul, ponies therefore were of little use, but their loss mattered very little on account of the beauty of the walks in the neighbourhood. Low undulating hills, whose slopes were wooded or left in grass, fell back in tiers towards the mountains behind Soul. In the narrow valleys, between the hills, the farm-

houses were hidden away in groves of trees, and the heart of the valley was cultivated in rice lands, which rose in terraces behind each other, forming a narrow horse-shoe, the arc of which was high up



LIFTING WATER BY TRIPOD FRAME.

on the hillside, and the base by the seashore. Where no water was available, cotton, maize, millet, beans, or *perilla* filled the odd-shaped patches of ground unfit for rice at the foot of the hills.

Instead of the water-wheel commonly used in China for raising water from one level to another,

in order to flood paddy fields, a much more simple contrivance was used. This consisted simply of a tripod, from which swung a great scoop with a long handle. The man at work plunged the scoop into the water as nearly as possible at right angles. The blow carried the scoop through the water, and a depression of the handle, accompanied by a slight jerk, threw the water into the field above. After which the recoil brought the scoop again into position.

The one unsightly part of the country was where an arm of the sea that rän inland left at low tide a vast extent of mud, the only objects on which that broke the dull uniformity of the surface were some straw huts built on raised ground near pans used for evaporating salt from the sea water.

The number of water-birds that frequented the country in the spring was very great. Curlews, whimbuls, godloits, greenshanks, white egrets, large and small herons, and night herons, were on the shore, in the paddy fields or on the hillside. Duck were plentiful, but snipe very scarce, and from the little that I could tell, judging from my short experience, the number of small migratory birds that passed through Chemulpo was very much less than that further inland. This was somewhat unexpected, as on the opposite side of the gulf, the line of migratory flight lies, I believe, only a little distance

off the coast, the lighthouse at Chefoo being in consequence a very good collecting ground for migratory birds.

The fishing that was done on the coast was very limited. So many fish were left behind by each ebb tide on the mud flats, that there was little occasion to do more than walk about with a basket and pick up such things as luck placed in men's way. In April the market was remarkably well supplied. The *thai* fish, of Japanese celebrity, large prawns, and herrings were to be bought for a very small sum. The herrings, by the way, are said of late years to have left the Shantung coast for Corea, and Chinese junks come over in large numbers for the herring-fishing on the coast of the Hwang-hai Province. They are allowed to land there to dry their fish, but no intercourse is permitted between them and the natives.

Of the wonders of the sea I saw one which at the time seemed almost formidable in its proportions. Had it not been that two similar objects were visible at the same time some distance off, I would have claimed it for the sea-serpent, but I fear that it must have been merely a sea-lion, though its proportions, as dimly seen in the water, looked much larger.

One night, when dining on board H.M.S. *Flying Fish*, another mystery was solved, in the curious

sound produced by the drum fish, which I had heard frequently when on shore, but had been totally unable to assign to any cause.

Puzzles of one kind or another were constantly presenting themselves at Chemulpo. Why does the tide, which is hardly perceptible at Fusan and Gensan, increase in force along the west coast as it advances further north, until at Chemulpo the rise and fall is thirty feet? Can the immense volume of the Yellow River be driven back north by the Yangtsze and by that part of the Formosan current which passes west of Japan? Is the strength of the tide in part owing to the evaporation constantly going on in this shallow sea?

It seemed a little remarkable that at the outer anchorage the tide should run up seven hours out of the twelve. Nor was it immediately apparent why the more distant part of the coast should often appear to be composed of a continuous line of rock, of the same height throughout, and rising precipitously out of the water. As a matter of fact, rounded hills and islands of different heights, with intervals of sea between, composed the unbroken chain of rock presented by the mirage.

One bright morning, at high tide I think, I saw a mass of fog, the walls of which were quite clearly defined, slip round Roze Island, pass almost at my feet, and cross the settlement on to the hills. It

could not have been more than 300 yards thick; it came on with great speed and had disappeared within five minutes.

One glorious afternoon in June, at high tide, I sat down on a rock to admire the beauty of the scene. Not a cloud was visible, and the sky was a marvellous blue. I got up and hunted for flowers along the foot of a little hill which stood back from the sea. The hill was between me and the sea, and when I had made its circuit, which could not have exceeded 300 yards, I found black night. I had a native with me, and we found our way home without any actual difficulty, but we could not see forty yards ahead, though the sun had not set.

These sudden fogs are, I suppose, due to the immense extent of ground which is left uncovered by the ebb tide and exposed to the sun. The evaporation must be very rapid under such circumstances, and the sudden effect produced on the atmosphere by the rush of the incoming tide would, I presume, be not unlikely to produce fogs of this kind.

With so much of interest on all sides, I could not help regretting that no information was ever asked for by the outside world on points which the opening of Corea would be likely to clear up. It seemed impossible that one could not be of use to some science in collecting facts which had hitherto

been unattainable, but apparently consular officers are not consulted except on commercial questions. If scientific men would follow the example set by chambers of commerce, and ask for information which they expect to be within the reach of men at out-of-the-way posts, they would generally confer a boon on the officer, by giving him a new special interest, and they might sometimes learn what they sought for.

As summer drew on, the birds for the most part disappeared, and the country put on a much more fertile appearance. Now and again some countryman would appear with a little fawn for sale. Owls, generally of the large horned kind, were often in the market, but were not so easy to feed as the fawns, which delighted in a kind of *commelyna* that grew luxuriously over the hill. But the two things which I made a strong effort to obtain entirely escaped me. After much talk and some expense, a few ginseng plants were brought to me, but they withered away soon after being planted, having, as it proved, no roots. For pheasants I offered rewards locally, advertised in Soul, and solicited official assistance, but I could get neither birds nor eggs, much to my regret, for they are well worth importing into England, and I had been asked to obtain some for the purpose.

As time passed on, it was impossible to avoid

auguring ill of the trade of the country. At the first, beans were brought in large quantities, and it was a pleasant sight to watch the energy with which the work of repacking was done. The bags were emptied out on to mats spread on the beach, and there measured in wooden bushels, before being repacked in strong straw bags. The men employed seemed to delight in the work, and showed far more activity in this than in any other occupation.

When the beans began to fall off, bones took their place, and the butchers in Soul and the neighbouring towns were surprised to find that money was to be obtained for what they had previously regarded as worthless refuse; but after a time the supply even of bones fell off, and the exports were of a most limited character.

Even the Japanese, economically as they lived, found that trade in Corea was far from being a source of wealth, and many of them failed; while the few Europeans who were established in the place complained of the difficulties in the way of obtaining payment in silver or in kind for the commodities they imported. In addition, a fall in the value of copper cash discouraged the acceptance of the current coin, and introduced a fresh obstacle to trade.

With the heavy rains, which began in June, the health of the Chinese and Japanese became seriously

affected. Two of my own servants died, and one of Mr. Aston's died in Soul. Malarious fever and jaundice were very prevalent, and any weakness of the lungs developed at an alarming rate. Dogs that had been imported died off rapidly. Of four that I had, two died within the first two months, and the other two had to be sent away until the autumn.

The extent to which the River Han was swollen by the summer rains was almost beyond belief. For a day or two communications between Soul and Chemulpo were almost completely cut off. Being anxious to see how far the river was out, I rode up to Soul as soon as the rain stopped. Taking circuitous routes, I reached the bank of the river seven miles from Soul about 3 P.M. In the last mile or so, I skirted the foot of a hill, riding at times through water up to the pony's girths. After great trouble, I succeeded in finding a ferry boat, which, after three-quarters of an hour's passage, carried me to some rising ground in the centre of what was generally a grass plain, but which then was six or seven feet deep in water. A little further on, I got into another boat with some thirty people on board. The only means of working the boat was by a heavy scull at the stern, where three or four of the passengers assisted the boatmen. After creeping with some difficulty about 300 yards up the bank, we

made a strenuous effort to cross the stream, and pitched up on the opposite bank, nearly three-quarters of a mile down, and so great was the delay caused by this boating adventure that I did not reach Soul until 7.30 P.M.

After the discomfort of such a journey, and the absence of any of the comforts of life at Chemulpo, it was a real treat to spend a day now and again at Soul, where Mrs. Aston had succeeded in placing the Corean houses, which formed the Consulate-General, in a condition of almost European civilisation. By knocking down some division walls, and introducing more sunlight into the grounds, and laying part of them down in turf, the compound had assumed the air of a very pretty garden, in which crab-trees, paulownias, hawthorn, and lilac bushes flourished luxuriantly. As a visitor, it was impossible, in spite of what I heard, to believe that so pretty a place could have drawbacks, and it was not until I had to live in the house myself, that I learned how exceedingly inconvenient the whole plan of the building was for Europeans. Having no passages or corridors to connect one set of rooms with another, it was necessary to cross in the open air from the dining to the drawing room. A visit to the store room entailed an excursion of eighty yards; the coal-house was but little nearer; the servants' rooms were at distances varying from twenty to a hundred yards,

and so many buildings intervened between the inhabited part and the servants' quarters that, in the absence of bells, it was necessary either to dispense with the attendance of servants, or to hunt them up oneself.

Another great drawback lay in the approach to the Consulate, which was by a lane at right angles to one of the chief arteries of thoroughfare in the town. On either side of the path was an open drain full of festering filth, and the path was so narrow that if two ponies met, one could hardly avoid being pushed into this mass of abomination. The well from which the Consulate was supplied stood apart from this system of drains, but was amply provided for from other sources. There was no well within the grounds, and no provision of any kind against fire. Children with smallpox on them were nursed by their parents outside the doorways of the huts which lined the lane. In fact, the elements of disease of many kinds stood ready at the Consulate gate for any one who had a mind for sanitary matters, but fortunately disregard of such things seemed to serve as a preventive against illness, and it was only when they were thrust immediately upon one that attention was paid to them.

While habit doubtless diminished some of the inconveniences of this life, on the other hand increased familiarity with the people served only to

heighten appreciation of the seclusion in which the women, except those of the very poorest class or slaves, passed their lives. Once I happened to come across some ladies on a journey, who had got out of their chairs at the top of a hill. At sight of a foreigner their first thought was to regain their chairs, but as that happened to be impossible, they put on a bold face and showed little embarrassment after the first confusion on being discovered.

The countrywomen at rice-planting time assisted their husbands in the fields, and worked all day long in the water with their petticoats tucked up to their knees, but they held little conversation with the men, and kept apart from them as far as possible. The only relaxation in which I ever saw them indulge was one day late in the spring when I came on some girls swinging each other. The day was one on which most of the men were away from the place at a fair in a neighbouring village, and the chances were therefore against their being disturbed. As soon as the intruder was sighted, off they bolted to their houses.

Modest as were the women, the sense of propriety shown by the men in working even in the hottest weather in jacket and trousers was especially astonishing to visitors from Japan, where the native customs were so widely different only a short time since. It would indeed be interesting to

learn whence this sense of modesty is derived, as in China, during the last few centuries, at any rate, no such scruples have been known.



GIRLS SWINGING.

There are many who will recollect the astonishment with which the news of an incident that occurred during the Duke of Genoa's visit to Corea in 1880, and which illustrates this feeling, was

received in China. It was said that for some days the duke had in vain endeavoured to establish communications with the authorities on a part of the east coast. The men on board his vessel had meantime been bathing and fishing. At length there came an official, not to open communications, but to remonstrate against the indecency of the men's conduct, which for some days past had prevented the villagers from leaving their houses. Such a shock to European pride has probably seldom been administered.

In order to make it possible to wear clothing in hot weather, the Coreans have devised loose frames of wicker or bamboo, which fit pretty closely to the body and arms, and serve to keep the clothes from contact with the skin. In this manner they prevent clothing from being saturated with perspiration, and guard themselves from the risk of a chill.

CHAPTER VI

Journeys of exploration—Accounts of Phyöng-yang—Kim and his wife—Preparations for journey north—Geography of Corea—Population—Proposed route.

EARLY in September I received instructions to undertake a journey towards which I had long looked forward, but with considerable uncertainty as to its ever taking place.

Of the eight provinces of Corea, those in the south and centre had by this time been explored by one or two gentlemen. Dr. Göttsche, a German professor at the University at Tokio, who had been given special facilities by the Corean Government for examining the geology of the country, had already made one very lengthy journey, visiting all the towns and rivers of most interest in the south, and was then on his way north by an easterly route. Messrs. Foulk and Bernadou, two officers in the United States navy, who were attached to their Legation in Soul, had also seen a great deal of Central Corea, but the furthest point north yet

reached by any one in European dress was Phyöng-yang, which lies about half-way between Soul and the north-west frontier of Corea.

The only native firm in Chemulpo which possessed any capital at all was composed of Phyöng-yang men, and from what they said there seemed to be some hope of finding trade prospects more promising in the north. When questioned on the subject, they spoke of a great anxiety among the native dealers there for foreign trade, but added that time would be required to develop the resources of the province, as the country people were ignorant of what things were in request abroad. But, in any case, beans and hides were plentiful, and the cattle of the province were superior to those in any part of Corea.

If this latter statement were true, it meant a great deal, as the cattle in the central provinces were remarkably fine, and all the heavy traffic, except in the more hilly parts, was done by bulls, either as draught animals or as beasts of burden. Cows, though only employed on light work in the fields, such as carrying manure and the like, were not used for dairy purposes, as the Coreans have not learnt the art of milking, and it seemed evident that the cattle trade was easily capable of development, if any attention was paid to the supply of oxen for the China market, as the Chinese animal is much smaller.

Another source of wealth was said to exist in the north in the shape of forests of large timber, which formed the source of supply for the building trade at Peking and its neighbourhood. These forests, if the descriptions given of them were correct, were of almost unlimited extent, and contained pine trees rivalling those on the banks of the Amur and on the opposite coast of the Pacific.

Gold, silver, and copper mines were said to exist in many places on the route, but to have been, in most instances, closed by a Government anxious to husband its natural resources against years of famine and want. Such accounts of gold I had long ceased to credit, but the silver mines of Chang-jin and the copper mines of Kap-san and Kang-ge seemed to be beyond dispute.

Added to these attractions was the prospect of very varied shooting, and the certainty of exploring country which, through two-thirds of the route, had hitherto been unvisited by Europeans, except perhaps by a Roman Catholic priest in disguise.

Unfortunately I was not independent of an interpreter, but I had a Corean servant who spoke Chinese well, and who was apparently better informed about Corea than most of his fellow-countrymen. At first there was a fear that he would not be able to come, as his wife was suffering from some disease of the breasts, which was expected

to prove fatal. As she was really given over, I thought that I could not make matters worse, and when appealed to, prescribed a strong mustard-plaister, which was applied, by a mistake, without any intervening medium. Whether it was kept on for the full time, I know not, but in a couple of days the woman was quite well again, and Kim, her husband, said that she could stay with some relations during his absence. He evidently delighted in the idea of revisiting his native country, for he came from the extreme north, and I gathered that he would not mind being separated from his wife for a time, as she occasionally beat him and disfigured his face with her hands.

Just at this moment he happened to be favourably mentioned by his Foreign Office for some work that he had done, and was placed on the official list, an honour which entitled him to wear a thin green robe over his long white coat, and to fasten the cap, worn underneath the hat, with an official fastening. These honours turned his head, and from a very useful servant he was converted almost immediately into an idler, who created much trouble by extorting money on every opportunity, and generally oppressing men of less exalted position.

A few preparations had to be made for the journey. Foremost among them was the purchase

of suits of waterproof for my servants, and of wrappings to cover the packages carried by the ponies. An oil-paper made in Corea serves admirably for these uses, and for a few shillings a man is clad in a coat which covers him from the shoulders to the feet, and which at the same time is light and can be packed into a small compass. Its sole disadvantage is that when once it begins to tear, the rent increases at a rapid pace, as stitches cannot be put in without an unfair strain on the part mended. When new and clean, it is of a bright yellow colour, and looks somewhat picturesque. An inferior waterproof garment is composed of the same kind of paper, oiled after it has first been used to set copies on for schoolboys, and the wearers of it present to the view many of the ordinary texts of school books, written in a very large hand, as models of handwriting.

For my protection, I was provided by the Foreign Office with a passport commending me to the care of the officials through whose jurisdictions I might pass, and asking them to advance whatever cash I might require against my drafts upon Soul. This very useful provision was intended to guard against the necessity of taking a large quantity of the currency with me, as, in addition to the expense entailed by such a course, there was an uncertainty how far the currency of Soul would be accepted as

coin of the realm. The cash employed at the time in the capital nominally represented five small cash, but the larger coin had been so debased as to be not worth more than two small coins, and, in spite of the efforts of the Government, its circulation in consequence was very restricted.

Among my other followers was a soldier, a fine strapping fellow, whose services had been lent at my special request, as I thought it would be very useful to have a man who could carry my gun for me. Soon after we had started, it appeared that he had been lent the services of a pony, and his usefulness to me was therefore entirely destroyed as far as my original intention was concerned.

And here, before entering on the details of my journey, a rough sketch of the general features of the country may, perhaps, be introduced. Corea is often spoken of as a peninsula, though its narrowest part between Gensan and Korea Bay is nearly two degrees south of its northernmost point. Its area is reckoned to be about 90,000 square miles, or a little more than that of England, Scotland, and Wales, and like them it stretches over rather more than eight degrees of latitude, lying between the 34th and 43d parallels. On the east coast is the Sea of Japan, on the west the Yellow Sea, and on the south the Channel of Corea, separating it from the Japanese Archipelago.

The characters of the east and west coasts are very opposed. On the east, where the rivers have a catchment basin of probably less than one-fourth of the whole country, the coast-line is well defined, is almost destitute of islands and harbours, and is little subject to the action of the tides.

On the west, the coast-line is almost indistinguishable owing to the numberless islets which adjoin the mainland, and towards which there stretch miles of mud, of which a large tract is left bare at low tide. The numerous inlets are hardly available except for native boats, owing to the violence of the tides and the narrowness of the channels cut by their scour through the mud banks. Along the whole length of this coast, in spite of its numerous indentations, there are but few good harbours. Rooper Harbour, to the south of Hwang-hai Do, the Ko-keum-san group off the Keum River, and Mokpho, near the south-western extremity of the peninsula, are probably the best.

On the west coast the rivers are frozen in the winter, and near their mouths the force of the tides breaks up and carries out to sea large masses of ice. On the east coast the ports are open the whole winter through, even in latitudes considerably higher than those on the west. The advantage that Corea has in her open ports on this coast has given rise to the reports, often circulated, of Russia's

intention to seize one of these ports and hold it as her naval station in the Pacific, from which base her fleet in that ocean could be utilised, for without such a port her fleet is frozen up for four months of the year.

The interior of Corea is easy of description. The whole of the north, down to the narrow neck between Gensan and the Yellow Sea, is one mass of mountains increasing in height towards the centre. Further south the mountains follow the east coast in a continuous line, and throw out feelers to the west, which break up the country into a series of valleys debouching on the sea. Hwang-hai Do has a mountain system of its own, which is said to be of a different formation from that of the rest of Corea, which is almost wholly igneous, and in the two southernmost of the western provinces, the hills are said to fall away towards the sea into wide stretching plains of a very monotonous character, and sadly destitute of trees or even brushwood.

The chief rivers of Corea empty themselves into the sea on the south and west. These are the Nak-tong on the south coast, and on the west the Yŏng-san, the Keum, the Han, with its large tributary the Im-jin, and lastly, the magnificent Amnok or Yalu, which forms the boundary between Manchuria and Corea. On the opposite slopes of the mountains which supply the head-waters of the

Amnok, are the sources of the Tumen, which completes the boundary line between those two countries, and for the last five miles separates Russia from Corea.

Such are some of the main features of this country, whose population, roughly estimated at 10,000,000, is naturally more dense in the lowlands of the south than in the mountains of the north, but over-population in any part is checked by frequent famines and pestilences, such as occurred last year (1886) in the centre of Corea, when the mortality from cholera in the capital and surrounding villages was said to exceed 100,000 in the space of two months.

The route which I proposed to take lay first along the high-road from Soul to China, as far as the frontier town of Wi-ju; then from Wi-ju eastwards across the mountains to Kang-ge, and thence south to Gensan on the east coast; and from Gensan direct to Soul.

From Soul to Wi-ju, and from Gensan to Soul, the road was clearly laid down in Chinese and native maps, but the route across the north of Corea was very obscure, and evidently not much traversed. Roughly speaking, the distances were 350 miles from Soul to Wi-ju, 500 miles from Wi-ju to Gensan, and 170 miles from Gensan to Soul.

CHAPTER VII

Packing ponies—Sam—Country outside Soul—Mountain fortress—Chairs and chair-bearers—Mid-day halt—Stone figures—Un-jin *miriok*.

THE weather in Corea is always bright and cheery, and in September it is especially so; but the brightness of any morning is somewhat dimmed by superintending the packing of ponies. What with provisions, bedding, guns, ammunition, and servants, it required twelve Corean ponies to dispose of all my belongings. All the ponies were stallions, and many of them were strangers to each other, and it was a difficult business to prevent them from tearing each other to pieces, even after the loads were adjusted. For such a long journey, the loads had to be light, and did not weigh more than 130 lbs. for a pony. The great difficulty was to equalise the division of the loads, as not only had each pony to carry approximately the same weight, but each load had to be divided into two divisions which would balance each other. After all, it seemed that

a whole pony-load of stuff was left unprovided for, until a careful re-examination of the traps showed that the cook had added on his own account a hundredweight of charcoal for cooking purposes. This was removed in spite of his protestations, and at last everything was stowed away, and the ponies started off about 8.30 A.M.

Kim, the interpreter, had made himself a most comfortable seat. Two exceedingly tidy wicker-baskets, much like those which sometimes form part of an Englishwoman's baggage, held his change of clothes and necessaries for the journey. These were strapped on to either side of the pony, and above them was laid a kind of platform of bedding and wadded clothing for winter wear. Seated far back, so that his feet just touched the pony's withers, Kim smoked his long pipe with great satisfaction, and only occasionally moved a hand in order to spread somewhat wider the skirts of his green coat.

My Chinese cook cut a very different figure. The poor man suffered from some physical defect which made his gait odd enough at all times, and it was not without much pushing from behind that he clambered on to the unsteady pile of pots, potatoes, and clothing, which formed his knobby seat.

The drivers had stipulated for an advance wherewith to purchase provender for their ponies, as the price of beans in small quantities on the

road was expensive and likely to lead to delay, but even the small amount which they took with them looked a very formidable addition to the weight which the ponies had to carry.

Having seen them all off the premises, I took my leave of Mr. and Mrs. Aston, and, after arranging for letters to be sent to meet me at Wi-wŏn about three weeks later, rode off on my Chinese pony with my big retriever Sam.

Sam stood about two feet ten inches high, was massively built, and looked a most formidable customer. He went with me almost everywhere, and wherever he went I owed him a great debt, for he absorbed almost the whole of the attention, which otherwise might have been turned to the strange dress and habits of a European as seen for the first time.

Following the tortuous lane, which leads from the Consulate to the west gate of the city, we picked our way between the drains, and occasionally pulled up to allow some foot passenger to pass. On either side were low cabins of mud, without windows or ventilation except through the open door, before which hung a screen of cords. At every other doorway was a man. Each man had a pipe in his mouth, and every other man a child in his arms. A few women with green mantles over their heads, and a blind man feeling his way with a long stick,

completed a picture which by this time had become familiar.

In the street beyond was much more stir. Country people and townsmen, officials and their followers, ponies and bulls, were all on the move, and together composed a scene of which I was not to see the like for life and bustle, even on a reduced scale, except at one or two places elsewhere.

A few hundred yards outside the city gate, which is built in much the same style as those of Chinese towns, and capped by a tower with a double-eaved roof surmounting rows of port-holes, we were on the high-road to China, and were soon reminded of the fact by a stone archway inscribed with a message of welcome to the Chinese mission, on reaching the end of their overland journey, which is over 4000 *li* long. The route has now been abandoned by the Chinese in favour of the sea route, but even at this date the Corean mission to Peking travels by this road. Here I may mention that the Corean *li* seems to be rather longer than the Chinese, three *li* corresponding very fairly to a mile.

On passing over the hill, which shut out Sou. from sight, the road for 200 yards was abominable, and for the want of a little road-making here and at one or two other points, communication by carts from the north with the capital is thus rendered almost impracticable. It seems extra-

ordinary that little intervals of bad road should thus be allowed to add to the difficulties of carriage, but, with two exceptions, each of the city gates has an obstacle of this kind lying outside it, awaiting the arrival of a little energy and funds for its removal.

On clearing this pass, the bare slopes of the hills which face Soul are exchanged for rich fir-woods, stretching right and left up the hills. Near to the road stands a house, intended as a resting-place for the Chinese ambassador, whose state visits to Corea entailed great expense, traces of which were visible on the whole length of the road from the capital to the frontier.

On the west, towards the sea and the mouth of the River Han, there opened out a plain of rice-fields, broken by low hills. On these the graves were thick. A horse-shoe clearing, with a bank of earth at the back, and a horizontal slab of stone raised a little above the ground, were all that marked the spot. No inscription told whose bones were laid there, but in some cases the grave was guarded by gray stone figures of men and horses. The graves were swept clean, and stood out prominently against a background of scrub, oak, and maple.

On the east lay the Sam Keuk mountains, three walls of rock, looking down on a valley in which a refuge is prepared for the king in times of trouble. Granaries of rice and stores of soy are there, under

the guard of soldier-priests. Why priests, who at other times are slighted and under a ban, are appealed to in such crises I cannot explain, but the fact remains, and numerous temples are provided for their devotions. The wall which encloses this stronghold runs almost to the crest of even the steepest heights, and is seen from a great distance.

Six miles out, the road struck across a valley planted with millets of various kinds. Sesamum, perilla, tobacco, chillies, cotton, beans, castor-oil plants, rice and buckwheat were also grown; and even the houses carried a few gourds that looked large enough to cave in the roofs.

The traffic on the road was almost confined to bulls and ponies, with their drivers, taking loads of fuel to the city, but two or three strings of ponies carrying native and foreign cotton cloths were passed. The foot passengers generally carried their few belongings slung on their backs by a cord, and the Chinese mode of carrying things on a bamboo was never followed.

During the summer I had attempted to teach some coolies at Chemulpo how to carry loads on a bamboo, and had imported a few bamboos with baskets from Chefoo. Instead, however, of one man carrying two baskets on a pole, they insisted on getting two men to a basket, and the result was that four men carried one man's load, but at a much

slower pace, as they had to keep step with each other.

The aversion to bearing weights on the shoulders was also shown by the way in which the light sedan chairs were carried. The bearers took the poles in their hands, and the greater part of the strain was thrown on the arm, only a small portion of the weight being borne on the back by a strap passing below the shoulder-blades.

On this part of the road several of these chairs were being used. Light as they were, the bearers were compelled to make frequent halts, and, when they had a chance, turned into a spirit shop to get a dram, leaving their charge in his box on the ground. In some cases the bearers were supplemented by a couple of men, who from time to time thrust a bar under the chair, and took the weight of it thus upon themselves for twenty or thirty yards. The shifting of the burden from one pair of men to the other seemed always to be accompanied by a severe jolt to the chair, but the relief made travelling much more expeditious, and we found that the chairs generally outpaced us by the end of the day, in spite of all the halts they made on the road.

A very pretty grove of maples and syringas stood by the road a few miles outside of Ko-yang, our mid-day halting-place. The banks of the stream that passed the village were strengthened in several

places by fascines, and a flock of the imperial cranes of Japan feeding in the fields gave further proof of the valley being exposed to inundations.

The place was little more than a collection of huts, most of them intended to provide food for man and beast. In one place the ponies were fastened up, in another their beans were bought, at a third these were boiled, and at a fourth the drivers got their own meal. No preparations were made for travellers. When a man came, his wants were attended to, and he waited an hour or so for his food to be cooked. As with the man, so with his pony. At the end of an hour the beans were thoroughly cooked and poured scalding hot into a trough; a little cold water was added to reduce the heat, and then beans, water, and chopped straw were stirred up into a kind of hot soup, in which the ponies found meat and drink together.

The cattle were fed just in the same way, and evidently throve on the diet, but the Chinese ponies were very unwilling to face the mess, fearing perhaps that they might be called upon for a canter afterwards.

When the last pony had finished his feed, the drivers began to square up their accounts. Each man paid his own bill, and the landlord examined each cash that was tendered to him. Pipes having gone out during this performance, the men stuffed

little coils of tobacco into their pipes, lit them, and resumed the march after an interval of two hours and a half.

Much as my patience has been tried in China by the time consumed over mid-day halts, I have never seen anything there to equal or even approach the waste of time in Corea. After three weeks' experience, I succeeded in reducing the time to an hour and a quarter, but this result was not attained without sending a man on ahead to order what was necessary for ponies and drivers.

A prettily wooded ridge, 360 feet high, lay behind Ko-yang. Flowers there were very plentiful, and among them a handsome white monkshood. Many of the commoner flowers reminded one of England. Michaelmas daisies made a great show, and were reinforced by hawkweed, camomile, and chrysanthemums. Several kinds of *lespedeza* and an *elsholtzia* were also abundant, and at the other foot of the ridge was the only cottage flower-garden that I saw anywhere. Zinnias, cockscombs, and larkspurs were thriving in it, and gave quite a pleasant air to the cabin.

A storm of rain came on which first drove us into shelter, and then, as the day was growing late, forced us to hurry past two colossal figures cut in stone which had been discovered a short time earlier by Mr. Aston.

The figures are half-length, and have been carved *in situ* out of boulders, standing in the heart of a fir-wood. Over the tops of the trees are seen two massive heads, wearing in the one case a square, in the other a round cap of stone. The rocks in which the figures are carved are now split downwards and across by great fissures, but the damage done by time has not so far affected the striking appearance of these monuments.

From the shape of the caps, Mr. Aston conjectured that the figures represent the male and female elements of nature. I could gather no explanation of their meaning on the spot, but was told that they had been erected since the foundation of this dynasty in 1398 A.D.

Figures of the kind are by the Coreans called *miriok*, which appears to be the equivalent of the Chinese *mi lê*, or Buddha. From what I have since learnt, Coreans apply this word to almost all statues, and also odd rock formations in the shape of human beings, the origin of which they do not know.

Lieutenant G. C. Foulk, who in the winter of 1884-85 represented the United States at Soul, was so kind as to give me a photograph of the largest *miriok* in Corea, which is at Un-jin in Chhung-chhŏng Do, and stands on the edge of a wide plain called Sŏ-sal-pŏl. It is sixty-four feet high, and is evidently (according to Lieutenant Foulk) cut

from a pinnacle of rock which had been left exposed after a landslip from the bluff which forms the edge of the plain. He saw it fifteen miles off, standing out against the bluff like a lighthouse. From what the priests told him at Un-jin, and from evidences on the spot, he believed that there must have been great changes in the physical aspect of the neighbourhood of the *miriok*.

The local legend regarding it was that, some time in the Koryö period, while a countrywoman was gathering firewood on the hillside, a high pinnacle rock sprang out of the ground. Its appearance was reported to the capital by the Un-jin magistrate, and it was decided that the rock was intended to furnish a statue of Buddha, into which it was accordingly cut by order of the Government.

It has been pointed out to me by an eminent Orientalist that the curious double cap of the *miriok* of Un-jin is highly suggestive of two of the currents of tradition and symbolism which have met in Corea; while the oblong slab and its pendents remind one of the old Chinese dress-cap, as illustrated in the ancient rituals, the repetition of such a thing above, and its arrangement on a central column, are obviously suggested by the Indian pagoda-umbrella. The position of the hands, and especially the mark between the eyebrows (*i.e.* the *urna*, one of the thirty-two *lakchanas* or characteristic physiological

marks by which every Buddha may be recognised), are conclusive of its Buddhist origin.

Further, both Un-jin and Phaju formed formerly a part of the Pek-tsi state, where Buddhism was introduced about the end of the fourteenth century, and which, in the immediately subsequent ages, was conspicuous by the number and splendour of its monuments.

CHAPTER VIII

Phaju—Im-jin river—Literary candidates—Hidden beauty—Crang-dan—Ginseng gardens—Song-do—Hospitality shown—Corean pottery.

About two hours after passing the stone figures the rain began to clear off, and we entered a long avenue of trees which led up to the town of Phaju. Halfway up the avenue was the body of a man lying on the road. He appeared to be quite insensible, but a very brief examination satisfied the drivers that he was only dead drunk. With some difficulty they were induced to move him to the side of the road, where he was left to recover from his bout, and then we pushed on to Phaju.

Here I was lodged in the guest quarters of the local official, who, in spite of the lateness of the hour, came with a large suite of servants to call upon me, as soon as he learnt that I had had my bath and dinner. A large courtyard had been given to my use, and the rooms were remarkably clean, and carpeted with grass mats from Kanghoa island.

Large bolsters covered with the same material, on which was painted a kind of key pattern in black and red, and a screen with panels representing large pieces of Chinese porcelain, completed the furniture. The official apologised for its meagreness, but without cause, for nothing further could be required according to Corean notions. He sat with me some time, inquired after Mr. Aston, whom he had seen a few months previously, pressed me to make a long stay, and insisted upon my making a longer visit when I returned, which he was confident would be soon, as there was in his opinion no likelihood of my completing the journey which I proposed. After smoking several pipes of tobacco, he got into his chair, which was placed on the narrow ledge outside the window. The servants hurried into the courtyard and raised a shout as the chair was lifted from its dangerous position, and, escorted by lantern-bearers, pipe-holder, and all the crowd of men who did something or nothing in the great man's service, he was carried with a rush into another part of the extensive buildings set apart for his accommodation.

Sept. 28.—After seeing my ponies start on their way, I returned the *moksa's* call. In order not to soil his room, I went in my slippers, and left them by the doorsill, where seven or eight pairs of shoes were already arranged. He received me at the entrance, and took me into a little room

furnished like that in which I had slept. Only five or six of his retainers ventured into this sanctum, but a vast crowd remained outside within hearing. After inviting me to sit down on the ground, he



FATHER, MOTHER, AND CHILD TRAVELLING.

offered me a long pipe with a brass bowl and glass mouthpiece. The length of the stem prevented any unpleasant taste of brass, and the flavour of the tobacco was fair. Unlike that smoked by working-men, the tobacco was finely cut, and was smoked in

the ordinary fashion, instead of being worked into rolls like cigar-ends.

Kim, the interpreter, was a model of decorum on this and on all such occasions. With hands folded and eyes cast down he translated, without a moment's hesitation, into Chinese or Corean, but without any inflection of the voice or change of feature to indicate that he was more than a translating automaton. On this occasion the interview was short, as a long day's journey lay ahead; and after expressing my thanks for the hospitality I had received, I got into my slippers and said good-bye to my host, who took leave of me on the steps outside his room.

The first few miles out of Phaju lay through undulating ground, much of which was wooded. The population was scanty, and few people were travelling on the road, but a small village stands near the Im-jin river, about eight miles from Phaju. The river is a fine clear stream, about 300 yards wide and 50 feet deep. Fish of forty to fifty pounds in weight are said to be taken in it. The current was not strong, but the stream is said to be navigable for only fifteen miles above this point. Half a dozen large ferry boats were carrying men and horses across, and as many more were drawn up on the bank. While the Phaju bank was densely wooded with ash and other trees, the right bank was bare and low.

Some earthworks, further down stream, were visible from the further shore, which were said to date from the time of the Japanese invasion at the end of the sixteenth century; and there was also a large tumulus visible in the distance, situated on a bluff that projected into the stream near the junction of another river.

Rice was being cut in one or two of the fields, but the rice harvest had not regularly begun, and for the moment little agricultural work was going on. Scores of weary pilgrims from the extreme north were met walking to Soul for an examination, which was to come off in the course of a few days. They each carried a long staff, but had only one or two things strapped on their backs, and otherwise travelled free of luggage. The officials on the road are bound to find them lodging and a meal, and they thus have few expenses to meet; but a less jovial lot of students than these could hardly be seen. Probably fatigue was in part the cause, but words were few among them.

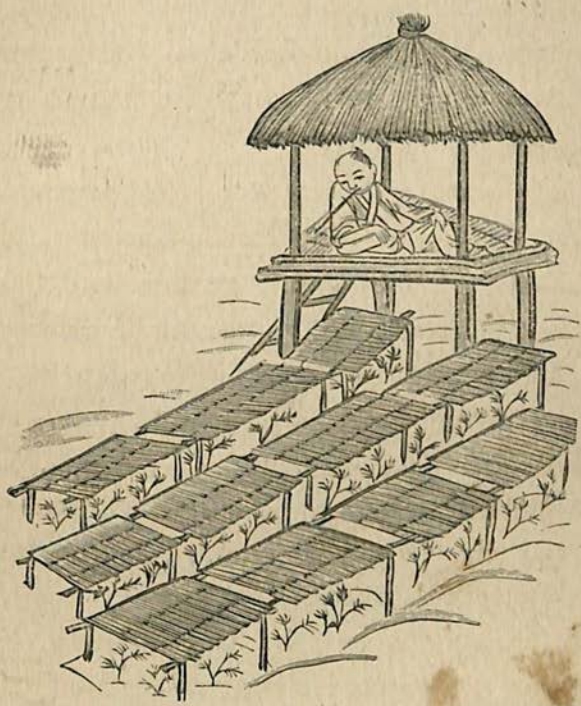
Very different from them was an examiner, who was hurrying on to hold a provincial examination. His chair and our train of ponies passed and repassed so frequently that we struck up a bowing and smiling acquaintance. He looked as bright as the students were sad, and he evidently pined for conversation, which his mode of travelling rendered impossible.

A Corean woman riding on a pony and travelling in the same direction as ourselves overtook us or was overtaken a dozen times, but not once did she give a chance of seeing what her face was like. It was impossible to avoid sympathising with her position, which exposed her to such unusual trials as travelling almost alongside of a foreigner the whole day long, but the sympathy had to remain unexpressed.

A little before mid-day we reached Chang-dan, a large market town, when I called at once on the official. He lived in almost greater state than his colleague at Phaju, and he very kindly offered me rooms and a luncheon, but I preferred to expedite the departure of my ponies by taking my meal at the same inn as the drivers. As the people were a little inquisitive, I threw open the window of the room, and ate my lunch seated on the window-sill, to the intense enjoyment of the crowd.

On crossing some low barren hills behind Chang-dan, we entered a long valley running east and west, on the further side of which lies a fine range of mountains that extends to Song-do (Kai-söng). Considerable care had been taken at various points to protect the fields from the inundations of streams which then were dry, and the cultivation of the country was peculiar on account of the unusually large size of the rice-fields.

Besides other grains, that called "Job's tears" (*Coix lachryma*) was cultivated in one or two patches; and the loose panicled millet was extensively grown in the lower part of the valley, which was somewhat dry and sandy.



WATCHMAN IN GINSENG GARDEN.

But by far the most interesting sight were the ginseng gardens, of which there were several, all enclosed in high fences, above which were seen the raised platforms on which the watchmen keep a guard over this valuable plant.

Mr. Aston, who had visited these gardens in August,[1] writes of this plant that "it is grown from seed which is sown in March. The seedlings are planted out in beds raised a foot above the level of the surrounding soil, bordered with upright slates, and covered in from sun and rain by sheds of reeds three or four feet high, well closed in except towards the north side, where they are left more or less open according to the weather. These sheds are placed in rows with just room enough to walk between them. In the first or second years the ginseng plant is only two or three inches high, and has only two leaves. It is transplanted frequently during this period. In the fourth year the stem is about six inches high, and in the fifth year a strong healthy plant has reached maturity, though it is more usual not to take it up until it has reached the sixth season. Mould containing plenty of rotten leaves is the only manure used."

The cultivation of this plant is entirely in the hands of a few farmers licensed by the king, whose privy purse is mainly dependent upon the monopoly of this drug, the revenue of which in 1884 was by a very competent authority estimated at over 445,000,000 cash, or, roughly speaking, 500,000 dollars.

The suburbs of the town were of some extent,

[1] Corea, Bluebook, N. 1, 1885.

and a very busy trade was being done in earthenware tubs and pans in the street just outside the city gate. Inside the gate there was little sign of activity, and the crowd of boys who had followed



BOYS WHIPPING TOPS.

me and my dog gradually fell away for lack of reinforcements, and returned to whipping tops.

The Governor's *yamên*, or official residence, to which I was taken, lay some two-thirds of a mile from the city gate, and consisted of a series of courtyards laid out on a large scale, planted with fine

trees, and well kept. His major-domo, with several servants, showed me to a very comfortable set of rooms, outside which my ponies began to unload. Servants and official underlings crowded in, and first the rooms and then the courtyard were filled with people. It became necessary to clear the courtyard, and I warned my servant not to unpack until the rooms were cleared, but the warning came too late, for my soap-dish had caught some man's eye, and been carried off as a prize. It was some consolation to think that when the prize was melted down, the man would find it was not of silver.

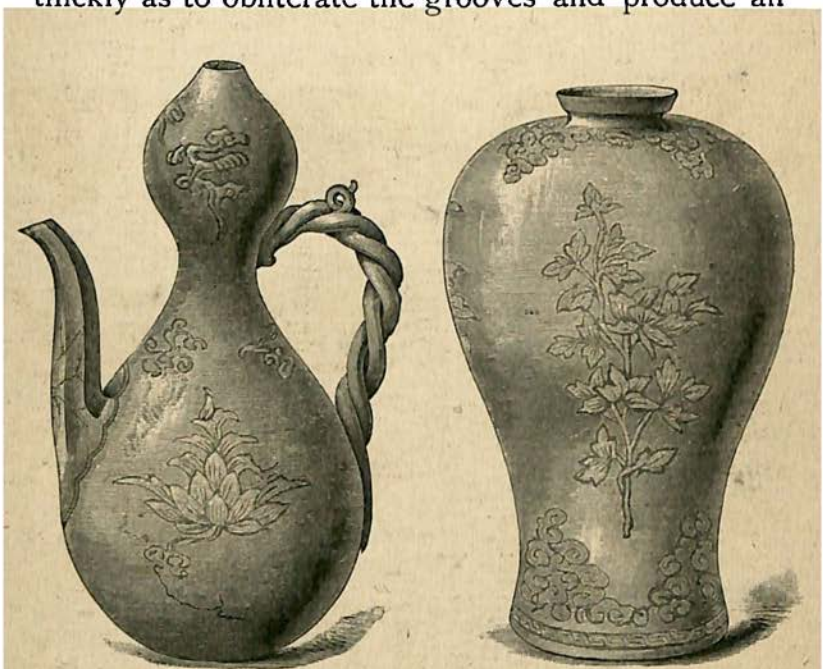
The major-domo was quite powerless to recover my property, though its loss was discovered immediately, but he turned the incident to advantage by turning every one out of the place. His dress was almost exactly like that of his master, and the distinction between the dress of the two was more than I could detect at first sight, either here or at other officials' residences. The general effect of the dress is decidedly striking. Crimson sleeves reaching almost to the armpit are let into a long blue robe by square orange shoulder-pieces. The hat is low, rounded at the top, and bears a large rosette of blue plush. The shoes are large, very large in proportion to the size of the feet, on account of the uncouth wadded socks which are worn, but they do not impair the general effect, as the thick-

ness of the soles entails a slow and somewhat imposing gait.

By the time I had finished washing and had changed my dress, the Governor called. His manner was exceedingly pleasant, and he conversed for some time without manifesting any inquisitiveness about my belongings, strange as they must have appeared to him. When leaving, he begged me not to take the trouble to return his call, as he had to start the next morning before daybreak to visit some royal tombs. I was disappointed at finding him speak very disparagingly of the surroundings of Song-do, the only thing which he mentioned as worth visiting being the ruins of the old palace, which was destroyed when the last dynasty was overthrown and the capital removed to Soul, at the end of the fourteenth century.

Song-do was formerly the place of manufacture of the best Corean pottery, but on the removal of the capital the trade fell off, and the workmen, refusing to follow the court, gradually abandoned their industry, the knowledge of which has now been forgotten. In the winter after my return to Soul I succeeded in purchasing a few pieces, part of a set of thirty-six, which were said to have been taken out of some large grave near Song-do. These are, for the most part, celadon ware, glazed, with a pattern running underneath the glaze.

As described by a gentleman, who examined them carefully, the main patterns appear to be engraved on the clay as fine grooves or scratches, and the subsequently applied glaze is put on so thickly as to obliterate the grooves and produce an



COREAN POTTERY.

even surface. They are made of an opaque clay of a light reddish colour, and appear, as usual with Oriental fictile ware, to have been supported in the kiln on three supports, and the supports used, in several instances at least, have been small fragments of opaque quartz, portions of which still adhere to some of them. In one of the smaller pieces is a

radiate ornament in the centre, which appears made up of a series of irregular white fragments of quartz or porcelain, which must have been imbedded in the clay before the baking, and some of which project above the surface, though thickly covered with the glaze.



COREAN POTTERY.

Song-do is one of the four great military posts for the protection of Soul. The three others are at Kanghoa, Su-wön, and Kwang-ju. The commandant or governor of the town is styled a *niu-su*, and administers his government independently of the governor of the province. According to the latest returns, Song-do contains 7000 houses, with a population of 19,610 males and 10,260 females, but the extent of ground that is built upon seems small

for so large a population. It is one of the most important places in Corea, lies about twenty miles from the sea, and, with favourable tides, is reached more quickly from Soul by water than by land, but its importance is purely local, and is not likely to extend outside of Corea for some time yet.



WOMAN TRAVELLING.

CHAPTER IX

Hiring a pony—Ruins of old palace—Hwang-hai Do—Vermin—Hill fortress—Limestone country—Official servants—Officials chosen from nobility—Beautiful wood—Hwang-ju—Fertile plain—Meet Dr. Göttsche—Call on the Governor.

Sept. 29, *Bar.* 29.82.—My Chinese ponies were already knocked up, one with a sore back and the other dead lame, so I sent them back to Soul with their Corean groom, who had, as I afterwards learnt, employed the two days' march in robbing innkeepers, pony-drivers, and myself. As it was necessary to get something in their place, some Corean ponies were brought for my inspection. One of them, a stallion, under ten hands, with a short body, tiny head and feet, and wonderfully powerful hindquarters, completely won my heart, as he trotted across the courtyard, screaming loudly and dragging his master, a boy of nineteen, almost off his feet. It was a difficult matter to reduce my saddlery to his dimensions, but with many knots in the cheek-straps, and an elaborate arrangement of the girths, it was at last possible to keep his gear on

him. He never had much work to do, for I almost always walked except when in towns; but whenever he was wanted to catch up the rest of the train, or to carry me through the streets of a town, he was always ready to tear along at top speed, screaming and trumpeting, and panting for a fight with the baggage animals, who, though larger, were much more peaceable. He seemed to have communicated something of his own temper to his master, who, however tired, was always laughing and talking, and never forgot to look to his pony's wants before his own.

Having arranged this matter satisfactorily, I started off with a couple of soldiers, who had been told off by the *niu-su* to look after my wants, to see the ruins of the old palace, which lay within the city walls a little nearer the foot of the hills. Nothing of the buildings was left standing, but their foundations could still be traced out, and seemed to have been built on the same plan as those of any large state buildings in China. A causeway 150 paces long and 50 wide, flanked with masonry, connected the main halls, and by a gradual ascent led to a crescent-shaped hill, apparently artificial, which stood at the back of the grounds, enclosing a large tumulus.

No carved work, nor inscriptions of any kind, were seen by me; and it was evident that a large part of the stonework had been carried away for

building or other purposes, as it had been cleared away systematically, and no rubbish was left about.

Turning away from the palace, and passing through extensive chestnut orchards, we reached a small gate in the wall, through which there was a descent to the main road to China. Potato patches were dotted about the hillside, and in the valley were two or three ginseng farms.

A great change was visible here in the natural features of the country. Hitherto the hills had been almost entirely of disintegrated granite, the surface soil of which, being easily washed away in heavy rains, carries most of the smaller herbage with it, and leaves the hillsides bare, thus lending a rich red colouring to the landscape. In such a soil much of the water of the streams found its way under the soft sand which formed their beds, and an extensive view embraced low rounded hills in the foreground, enclosing cultivated valleys, and strongly contrasting with the distant mountains. But on entering the mountain range behind Song-do, the view was shut in by high mountains clad with woods of fir, oak, and maple. Clear streams rippled over pebbly beds, and pheasants found good cover and food in the dense thickets of shrubs and artemisia. The villages lay at long distances apart, and only by the roadside. Wayfarers were few, and hemp was one of the commoner crops.

In those places on the hillside where cultivation had been attempted much harm had been done from want of terracing, the soil having been completely carried away by rains, but the places where any such attempt had been made were few.

After making a slight descent towards our midday halting-place, we struck through the outer line of hills and began to climb another valley. Looking back, a brilliant white mass was seen in the far distance, high up on one of the hills, which may have been only a block of white quartz, of which there were several large pieces by the roadside, but, whatever it was, the villagers knew nothing of it, in spite of its prominence as a landmark.

A sharp shower of rain sent us all scurrying on towards Kim-chhön, where the roofs of several large buildings intended as a resting-place for the Chinese mission were prominent objects. Half a mile further on, after crossing two streams, we found ourselves in the province of Hwang-hai Do. This had been spoken of as the home *par excellence* of pheasants, and the grounds for its fame were very soon proven to be not ill-founded.

The geological formation was quite different, being chiefly of pudding stone. Here and there were beds of gravel. A mass of mountains completely detached from the main chain, which runs through the whole length of Corea, lay between the

road and the sea. To the east was an extensive plain carefully cultivated, and beyond it again were mountains. Off the coast of this province are the rich herring fisheries frequented by Chinese junks, whose crews are allowed to land to dry their fish, but otherwise have no communication with the natives, who apparently get little advantage from their own fisheries in this part of the Yellow Sea.

Having stopped behind for some pheasant shooting, it was late before I reached the town of Phyöng-san, which was our resting-place for the night. Here I found that a set of rooms adjoining the official's residence had been vacated for my use. The official was absent on a visit to his family in Soul, and etiquette did not allow of my being lodged in his quarters in his absence. There seemed at first no cause to regret the change, as the rooms were large and apparently clean; but when bed-time came on, it proved that the whole place was a nest of vermin. Sleep was impossible, and a sharp attack of malarious fever lent extra horrors to the night.

Sept. 30, *Bar.* 29.75.—The first thing that struck the eye on leaving Phyöng-san was a gray wall, like that of an old castle, on the top of the hill which overlooks the town. The wall was overgrown with creepers, and broken down in places. Inside was a tangled wilderness of shrubs

and trees. There seemed to be a large artificial mound in the centre, surrounded by a dry moat, and a few footpaths were visible among the jungle. Fearing that I was trespassing in the grounds of some royal tomb, I desisted from exploring further. Kim, the interpreter, had seized the opportunity to hurry on ahead, and it was not until some miles further on that I learnt that this quaint wilderness was the hill fortress, or city of refuge, of Phyöng-san, and was supposed to be stocked with granaries and stores reserved for days of need. The news was the more surprising as there seemed no likelihood of water on such a spot.

The road for the first part lay through conglomerate country, succeeded later on by red sandstone, and about ten miles out lay a valley with rich soil, the vertical cleavage of which on the river banks looked like that of loess. By degrees the valley became hemmed in with hills, richly clad with firs and other trees. The scenery was particularly attractive, especially on the west bank, towards which there descended the outlying branches of some very fine mountains, round the base of which the road ran.

Near our mid-day resting-place the valley from a little distance appeared to be thickly studded with headstones of graves. On a closer examination these proved to be limestone boulders, projecting

above the soil, and remarkably uniform in size and shape. Further on these increased in number, rendering cultivation impossible. A dripping well and ornaments, such as pipe bowls, etc., made from the soft stone, were among other signs of the change in the geological formation. Far up on the hillside were what looked like the entrances to coal-pits, but the existence of coal was officially denied in the evening, and I was too weak from fever to inspect the mines in person.

Pheasants were plentiful by the roadside, and from a later traveller I heard that in the following month they were very common, and of two kinds, one of which, as far as I could gather, resembled the Pucrasia pheasant. For my own part, I neither here nor elsewhere ever saw any but the common ringed pheasant (*P. torquatus*), but if the pictures on screens were to be trusted, there are seven or eight kinds, some very gorgeous, and others like the common English bird without a ring. The Corean pheasant carries rather a deeper cushion of delicate green plumage over the tail than his Chinese relation, and the hen birds are especially large, weighing, like the cock, about forty-two ounces, but those of the second brood, which do not hatch much before October, are very inferior.

On escaping from the limestone valley, the scenery changed to low rolling ground, cultivated

in its whole extent. Signs of loess were again visible near the river bank, and along the top of a hill, about 140 feet high, near So-heung were a number of blocks of stone, rounded and worn as though by water. As the hill was quite detached, the presence of these boulders seemed very difficult to account for.

So-heung is a town of 1000 houses, but has nothing to distinguish it from any other Corean town. The official paid me a long visit, and afterwards sent me a present of very luscious pears. The scarcity of fruit had been very remarkable. At the same time of the year in Chefoo, on the other side of the gulf, there is an abundance of grapes, apples, and pears, but I had not been able to buy any but the hardest of small pears. Persimmons, the great fruit of Corea, are hardly found north of So-heung, and the natives appear to content themselves with walnuts, chestnuts, pine, and salisburia seeds, winter cherries, and the like. Later on I learnt to value the fruit of the *actinidia*, which, when picked fresh on a frosty morning, has a flavour somewhat like that of a gooseberry, but the same fruit in the market is insipid. This creeper is only to be found in the densest thickets, where it weaves tangled masses through which it is very difficult to force one's way to the fruit.

Oct. 1, *Bar.* 29.62.—All day long we travelled

almost due west, through a valley widening out to two or three miles in breadth. One or two streams were crossed, and the road only at times followed the course of the stream. A great mass of mountains to the south explained a large detour which it had been necessary to make. Villages of 150 to 200 houses were scattered about. The crops of beans and millet were mostly gathered in, and the country would have been monotonous but for the scenery to the south, and the appearance of a woodcock to do honour to the day.

For the last five miles we travelled north and reached Pong-san—a town of about 400 houses—an hour before sunset. Another grand rest house for the Chinese embassy lay outside the town, which looked even poorer than most, but, like the rest, it had its vast buildings for the official, its temple to Confucius, and the hall in which honour is done to the tablets of the royal family.

These halls take precedence of the town in importance, and the mile-posts on the road show the distance from them instead of from the town in which they lie. As the European traveller has already had to burden his memory with the Chinese and Corean names of the town, he has some excuse for not welcoming the introduction of yet another name, especially as its use is generally confined to a very small area, so that the name given on the

mile-posts does not help him to fix his position when he refers to his map.

The poverty of the town made still more striking the contrast between the huts and the official buildings, though the latter were somewhat out of repair. Poor as the town was, the official, when he called, was attended by fifty or sixty men and boys, all well clad, and virtually idlers. The number of these hangers-on explains in great measure the poverty of the people. Even at Pong-san there were said to be over 200 of these underlings, and Pong-san has a smaller staff than most places of the same official rank. In the town, which forms the residence of the Governor and his lieutenant, the staff is probably at least three times as great as that at Pong-san, but at the exceedingly low computation of 200 men attached to each district magistrate, there must be 66,400 men in the 332 district towns of Corea, who are supported out of the taxation imposed upon traders and labourers, and who, in the majority of cases, merely serve to swell the magistrate's train. If in addition to the men attached to the headquarters of the district magistrate, the attendants on officials appointed to smaller posts are included, the total must be enormous in proportion to the numbers of the industrial class, who bear the whole charges of the military establishment in addition.

The magistrate at Pong-san was a man of sixty-eight years of age, but active in spite of his years. Like all the officials, with one exception, whom I afterwards saw occupying any of the higher posts, he belonged to the nobility, and came from Soul. As the posts are only held for three years, the officers generally leave their families in the capital, which they visit whenever possible. From many places, which lay on my way north, the officers were absent for this cause, and the magistrate of one town was said to be absent five months in the year. The natural result of these frequent absences is that the whole work of the office is carried on by the permanent staff. Many of these men are thoroughly conversant with every detail of their work, so that when they are honest, the public service lies in the hands most competent for the duty, but the openings for corruption are too many not to affect the law courts.

Oct. 2, *Bar.* 29.73.—The road on leaving Pong-san struck at once into the hills by a steep ascent of 300 feet. On the summit stood some bullock carts, whose loads of tobacco were being carried down to the foot by the drivers. This is the stiffest piece of the road from Wi-ju to Soul. As a rule, the only difficulties lie in the parts where the road runs across valleys given up to rice cultivation, the drainage of which undermines the roadway. In

wet weather these are impassable, but in the late autumn and winter carts are said to be able to travel the whole distance.

The first part of the descent towards Hwang-ju lay through one of the woods which form the special beauty of this route. Firs, oaks, maples, limes, alders, and hornbeams; shoals of clematis, and ropes of *actinidia* and *pueraria* thrown over red-berried bushes of *euonymus;* bunches of mistletoe; banks of azalea; large-boled *zelkowas* and wide-branching *acanthopanax;* dainty streams; and perfect quiet, broken only now and again by the call of a black woodpecker, the whirr of a pheasant, or the rustle of a gray squirrel, together compose as charming a scene as weary traveller can desire.

The wood extended for about two miles, and on leaving it a view was obtained of another hill fortress, placed on the extreme top of some hills to the north. The hills in the neighbourhood were of a greenish stone, which appeared to break off in oblong blocks wherever the rock was exposed to the weather.

Winding round the hill on which the fortress stood the road passed under a gateway, placed outside a little village, and after an ascent of a mile and a half commanded a plain three miles wide, on the far side of which stands Hwang-ju. The city is built on the north side of a river 130 yards wide,

the bank of which is strengthened by stone, and the walls embrace a large piece of the hills behind. Inside this enclosure and above the town are woods untouched by fuel hunters. The walls crown the crest of the hill, and one or two towers break the uniformity of their line. The picture, as seen from a distance, is very pretty, and even after crossing the ferry, the effect continues as one makes one's way to the Governor's *yamên*, which stands on high ground overlooking the city, and separated from the business part of the town.

The two towns of Hwang-ju and Hai-ju are the residences of the Governor and his lieutenant, and from them the province takes its name of Hwang-hai. The officials in it and the Phyöng-an province combine civil with military commands, and thus enjoy even more state than their colleagues in some of the provinces. Holding military commands, they wear military uniform, and a round-topped hat decorated with blue plush balls.

Several other officials were present when I called on the Lieutenant-Governor, of whom I was very anxious to obtain information regarding the coast. He seemed very willing to help me, but assured me that the difficulties in the way of approaching the mouth of the Tai-dong river from that point were extreme; that the mouth was more accessible from Phyöng-yang; and that by following

the river down thence I might perhaps avoid the necessity of camping out at night.

There were several small European trifles in the room, and among them a watch. The Governor lost no time in asking for the correct time, and, strange to say, our watches agreed to a minute. The incident ought to prove a good advertisement to watchmakers anxious to find a sale for their wares in Hwang-hai Do.

The day was too late for me to accept his invitation to dinner, and I soon escaped to look after the pony-drivers, who, as I expected, had been led by the attractions of the place to indulge freely in wine. An aide-de-camp followed me to examine my passport, and many things occurred to prevent my seeing the town thoroughly, but, from a hasty inspection, there seemed to be nothing more than a very petty trade, which, from being confined to one or two streets, caused a very considerable bustle. The town is credited with 3000 houses, but the ground which had been built over did not seem large enough to hold so many.

For ten miles out of Hwang-ju the country was different to any I had seen in Corea, consisting of a low plain, with deep soil and rich crops. The streams had dug themselves an easy path through the mould, and were hidden from view. All the houses were stowed away in sheltered nooks where

they would be safe from the winter winds, and but few trees were to be seen in the wide expanse of cotton, millet, and maize.

Towards evening we crossed a little ridge that forms the boundary between the Hwang-hai and Phyöng-an provinces. It was long after dark that we reached Chong-hua, and perhaps this fact may account for all recollection of the place having escaped from my mind.

Oct. 3, *Bar.* 30.—After leaving Chong-hua there was a very slight ascent for some miles, but otherwise no change from yesterday, until we reached the crest of the plain, on which were some hillocks studded with graves. The day was a festival (the 15th of the 8th moon), and numerous parties of women and children were collected round the graves. At a few there were women weeping and wailing, but the general appearance of the people was that of holiday-makers out for a picnic, all dressed in their best.

They took no notice of me, and the road quickly descended towards the Tai-dong river. The avenue, customary outside all towns, was here over a mile long, and instead of a line of trees a grove forty yards wide flanked the road on both sides the whole distance. At intervals we passed tablets erected to distinguished officials, but on clearing the avenue we entered what amounted almost to a street, entirely devoted to these monuments, most

of which were under tiled sheds. Before reaching the bank of the river, the road crossed a stone bridge of three arches spanning a muddy stream. The stream is the only one with muddy waters which I have seen in Corea, and a bridge of this form was to me an equally rare sight.

The river at this point was divided into two branches, each over 300 yards in width. A man was wading across to the island in the centre, and on the far bank stood rows of wild geese. The road followed the river bank for a mile and then struck into a wide field of sand, which bordered the river opposite Phyöng-yang.

Numerous passengers were wading through the sand, and among them was one noticeable for being dressed in dark clothes. He detached himself from the rest, and proved, to my great delight, to be Dr. Göttsche, who had made his way to Phyöng-yang from the east, across several ranges of hills, and had arrived in the city two days before me. We had only known each other by name, but the pleasure of the meeting was very great, for the likelihood of seeing a European face anywhere was very slight.

Dr. Göttsche, who had heard of my approach, had come to greet me, and turned back with me to the city. Ferry boats, from which the planks at one end had been removed to facilitate the entrance of ponies, took us across the river. A number of light

boats with fishermen on board came near to look at us, but at the landing-stage underneath the city wall there was no crowd collected, and on entering the city we found the streets almost empty, as the shops were closed on account of the festival.

Dr. Göttsche had been assigned quarters at some distance from the landing-place, and I was given rooms rather nearer. As the buildings were entirely empty, I was able to keep the place quite free from intruders; but here, as elsewhere, I was astonished at the little interest excited by the appearance of a foreigner.

Within an hour of my arrival the Mayor called on me. He had a brother in the Foreign Office at Soul whom I knew slightly, and the link between us made him very friendly. I inquired whether the Governor would receive me, and hearing that he would be glad to see me, went with Kim, the interpreter, to pay my respects to him.

It turned out that notice of my coming had not been given, and there was evidently some doubt as to the manner of my reception, but after a slight delay the central gates were thrown open, and the Governor was seen standing at the head of some steps, waiting to receive me. He took me into his sanctum, gave me wine and tobacco, and examined me most minutely about England and her possessions abroad. Then followed some questions as to

my opinion of the prospects of Corea, but as these led to inquiries about the trading capacities of Phyöng-an, the subject was dropped, and gave way to a series of questions regarding Dr. Göttsche, his connection with the Corean Government, and the object of his journey.

It was very annoying to find that all inquiries as to the resources of the province, its trade and population, were received in the same spirit. Either from suspicion as to the object of my journey, or from an excess of courteousness, the Governor disparaged everything in his own country. He would not acknowledge the existence of any trade; the river, according to him, was useless for navigation; such mines as exist were valueless; the city itself, whose history extends over nearly 3000 years, contained nothing of interest; and it was impossible to purchase anything, either in porcelain, bronze, or other material which was worth taking away.

CHAPTER X

Phyöng-yang's history—*General Sherman* tragedy—Ki Tzu's tomb—Temple to God of War—Local trade—Population—Visit from the Governor—Ki Tzu's portrait and *ching*—Shipping quarter of town—Stone-throwing—Women's hats.

THE historical associations connected with Phyöng-yang are of great interest. At the commencement of the Chou dynasty in China (1122 B.C.), Ki Tzu, who had been a prominent minister of the Shang dynasty, left China with a large following and established himself in Corea. He is credited with having introduced the principles of civilisation into the country, and Phyöng-yang, where he is said to have lived, is almost sacred to him. The respect and love in which his memory is still held are evident from the inscriptions over gateways and public offices, almost all of which allude to him in some manner or other.

After having been the capital of the Korai kingdom, which came to an end at the close of the tenth century, when the "three kingdoms,"—Korai, Shinra, and Hiaksia—were united into the kingdom

of Koria, Phyöng-yang fell into the hands of the Japanese during the invasion of 1592, and its recovery was felt to be of vital importance. A Chinese army, commanded by Li Ju-sung, was sent to the assistance of the Coreans, and the Japanese, after two days' fierce fighting, were forced to retreat. So unexpected was the success, that the Coreans attributed it in great part to the interposition of the God of War, who, as they say, manifested himself with his battalions and struck terror into the hearts of the Japanese. Temples were erected to his honour all over the country, and Li Ju-sung was treated as the saviour of Corea.

Three centuries later Phyöng-yang was the scene of a tragedy, all the more striking in that its details were not even partially known until some years later. An American schooner, the *General Sherman*, visited the port in order to trade there if possible. For a few days the vessel was allowed to lie within sight of the city unmolested, and then, for some cause not hitherto accurately ascertained, she was attacked and burnt with all on board. Among those who died was Mr. Thomas, a missionary of the Church of England.

As a rule, Corean towns lie nestled in a bay of hills, the business quarter on the lower ground, and the officials' residences higher up. Phyöng-yang, however, extends from the banks of the Tai-dong to

the crest of a low neck of hills overlooking the valley of a tributary which falls into the Tai-dong a few miles lower down. On the north side the hill falls away somewhat precipitously, and along its crest runs the city wall. To the west is a wide view down the river, and to the south and south-east lies the magnificent plain on the far bank of the river stretching away to distant mountains. On the east are some low hills which command the town, at the foot of which flows the Tai-dong river.

On the morning after my arrival, Dr. Göttsche and I paid a visit to Ki Tzu's tomb, which lies a little way outside the north gate, on a hill partially wooded near the high-road to the north. Passing through a low gateway we entered the enclosure in which the grave stands. A small clump of fir trees grew on either side of the path, which led to a flight of eight or ten stone steps. On a terrace above stood three pairs of stone figures—the first that of a man holding a tablet in his hands, the second that of a warrior with helmet on his head and mace in hand, the third that of a sheep. Beyond them was a mound of earth, about four feet high, in front of which was placed a stone bearing on the face three Chinese characters, *Ki Tzu mu*, "Ki Tzu's tomb." At its back was another Chinese inscription, dated 1595 A.D., to the effect that the first character of the stone on Ki Tzu's grave having been lost during the

military occupation of 1533 A.D., this stone had been placed behind the original stone in the hope of saving it from further damage.

The custodian of the place came forward to ask for some donation towards keeping the place in repair, but no other person was to be seen, and the quiet of the spot was perfect.

After leaving this tomb, we paid a visit to a temple of the God of War, which had been recently built. We were asked to take off our shoes, and were then conducted through the buildings by an official in charge of the place. The rooms were exquisitely clean and richly decorated. Figures of the God of War and his friends Liu Pei and Chang Fei stood in the central hall, and in two galleries which ran round one of the courtyards were a series of frescoes representing various incidents in their lives. Some Persian bronzes on the altar in the main hall were said to have been sent from Peking by the emperor.

Outside the temple were the ordinary temple poles, but about fifty feet high, and held up in the usual Corean fashion by three pegs passed through two high slabs of stone placed close alongside the posts, which were in this manner kept from touching the ground.

Another building which we visited contained pictures of the Corean general and of one of the

Chinese commanders who retook Phyöng-yang from the Japanese, and on the walls which surrounded one of the courtyards were frescoe paintings of the assault on the city, which very accurately represented the site of the battle, and contained portraits of many of the more noteworthy officers engaged.

Besides these temples were one to Confucius, which was a bare hall, containing nothing but the tablets of Confucius and his disciples, and another to Tan Kun, the mythical being who, even before Ki Tzu's time, introduced some notions of civilisation into Corea.

On returning home I found a messenger from the Mayor, whose visit I had returned in the morning. The servant delivered his message in a kind of chant, standing perfectly upright, and with a face entirely void of expression. It appeared that he had brought a present, and I had to explain to him that I was prevented from accepting anything of the kind, an idea which he was long in grasping. I found out afterwards that the present consisted of some packets of paper and tobacco and some eggs. Twice a day, so long as I was in Phyöng-yang, this man came to inquire how I had slept, or to wish me good-night, and on each occasion he delivered his message exactly in the same manner, being apparently absorbed in the thought of what manner

of chant would do most honour to his master's words.

It was marvellous how hard it was to find out any trade worthy of mention in the city.

The Mayor had, at my request, notified to all the shopkeepers that I was anxious to buy any curios in porcelain or bronze, but nothing of any kind was brought to me, and the shops and stalls seemed quite bare of anything of the kind. Even silk and cotton goods were hidden away in shops of a very humble appearance, and such things as were exposed for sale were of the commonest description. Sandals, tobacco, pipes, and basket hats, were the most prominent articles for sale. Aniline dyes and needles were on every stall, and shirtings and Victoria lawns evidently were in great demand, but the majority of the things in request were either articles of food, such as fish, cabbages, turnips, grain, dried persimmons, pine seeds, walnuts, ginger, winter cherries, *tarai* (the fruit of a species of *actinidia*), or miscellaneous articles, such as combs, cedarwood for incense, paper, tobacco-pouches, scissors, locks, pieces of old iron and brass, flints, and safflower. There was besides a considerable sprinkling of Japanese goods, such as matches, looking-glasses, small lacquer tongs and bowls, and a few things imported across the frontier, such as cotton cloths from Manchuria, and glass bowls.

Everything in fact here, as at Soul, testified to the extreme simplicity of the life of the people, and to the absence of anything but a retail trade; but, poor though the people were, there was no evidence of destitution. Beggars were hardly ever seen by me in any part of Corea, even when later on I came to places where famine was staring people in the face. When the struggle became hopeless, the customary thing, as far as I could learn, was for people to leave their homes and make a fresh start elsewhere, trusting to the hospitality of their countrymen on the road and to assistance from their neighbours for a few months after arrival at their new homes. The hospitality shown by Corean settlers who had crossed the border was said to be sure to extend to finding seed for crops and food for a few months, besides a little manual assistance from time to time.

Some of the chief men of the Tai-dong Guild called on me at my request and told me what they could of the trade. From excess of politeness they positively refused to cross the threshold of the room in which I sat, but they answered my questions readily enough. From what they said, the annual supply of hides from the province does not exceed 10,000, and only about 3000 pieces of foreign piece-goods had been imported into the city that year, of which about ten per cent came across the

border. Brand Brothers and Reiss and Co. were the merchants whose brands were regarded as best. Besides hides, the province produced cotton-silks, cotton and hempen cloth, beans and raw cotton. The silkworms were fed on mulberry and not on oak leaves. The cocoons were of two colours, red and white, the latter the dearer, costing 600 cash ($1 = 850 cash) a catty. Iron came from Kai-chhön, on the Tai-dong River, where, as I learnt from Dr. Göttsche, the seams of iron were very rich, and copper and lead from Kap-san in the Ham-gyöng province.

Some servants of the Mayor's were listening to our conversation, but they did not seem to act as a check on my gaining any information. The chief obstacle in the way was the extreme humility of my informants, which prevented their making any remark except in answer to a question.

Dr. Göttsche, who had been more successful than myself in obtaining information from officials, informed me that the population of the province, according to a census taken three years previously, was 887,480 souls, of whom only 402,526 were females, and that the disproportion between the two sexes was even greater in the district of Phyöng-yang, where there were 43,074 males to 32,864 females. The only explanation that I received of the difference was that girls were not nursed with

the same care as boys through the illnesses of childhood.

Oct. 5.—The Governor paid me a long visit, and was much interested in such foreign things as I had with me. The excellence of our leather especially surprised him, and he could hardly credit the number of uses to which it was put. He inquired much after prices, and was quite aghast at the cost of such few things as I showed him. At last he gave expression to the feeling which evidently oppressed him: "Corea is a very poor country. There is no money in it, and no produce. We cannot afford to buy foreign things." Of course I impressed upon him the desire that there was to develop the trade of Corea, but he cared little for what I said, and went away somewhat sadly.

After he had left me, I started off with Kim to see a little shrine outside the city, where there was a portrait of Ki Tzu. The picture was in a very common building, and did not appear to be of any great age. In it Ki Tzu was represented as wearing a white robe, with the head-dress of the present day, and in other respects much like any ordinary Corean of seventy.

Outside the hall was a well, near which stood a tablet with an inscription in Chinese characters of the style in use 3000 years ago, and of which I

afterwards found the meaning to be, "A monument to the marks of Ki Tzu's land measurement." I could get no light thrown upon the inscription on the spot, and went away wondering why this well should have been spoken of to me as one of the sights of the place, and it was not until the evening that I learnt that various cross-roads and banks, which I had passed on my way to the tablet, represented, on a full scale, the standard or system of land measurement said to have been introduced by Ki Tzu.



The same word *ching* represents in Chinese both a well and also the divisions in which land was held in ancient times. The lands were divided into allotments, corresponding to the nine divisions formed by the four cross-lines of the character, and the outlying plots were cultivated by different families for their own use, while the central division was tilled for the State by the joint labour of all.

But the sight of the well entirely drove from my mind all idea of land measurements, and thus, to my great regret, I lost the opportunity of examining closely the very interesting monument which still remains to testify to Ki Tzu's work in Corea.

Leaving the hall I walked to the river bank and had my lunch on a spot opposite the island, off which the *General Sherman* was said to have been burnt. According to the story which I heard from



BOAT.

two or three of the natives, when the vessel first arrived off Phyöng-yang, the Governor sent off presents of food, but refused permission to trade. After waiting ten days and more, the vessel having, for some cause unexplained, fired upon the Coreans, she was attacked and forced to drop down the river

Owing to a dense fog, she took the wrong channel near this island, and grounded. In the night she was set on fire by fire-junks, and every one perished on board.

Walking up the river bank towards the city, I came across the shipping quarter. About twoscore of junks were lying alongside the river bank, most of them laden with reeds for the manufacture of mats. Houses for the resort of sailors, some of them two stories high, were built by the water-side, and a good many sailors, some of them heavily bearded and whiskered, were idling about. I went on one of the junks to have a talk with the master, and soon there was such a crowd collected on board, that he became anxious for her safety. I found him very civil, and ready to answer any questions. He had been three days coming up from the mouth of the river, which he said was only knee-deep in some parts at low water. At high tide, however, there was about ten feet of water on the shallows, and in the summer floods vessels drawing thirteen to fourteen feet could come up with a pilot.

As it turned out, he had known me at Chemulpo, and accordingly I was introduced to the crowd as a friend. There had, however, been no sign of the least feeling of unfriendliness, though Phyöng-yang had been spoken of to me as a dangerous place,

since the people were fond of fighting and stone-throwing.

At certain times of the year leave is given them to fight, and for about three days a war of stones is carried on between the townsmen and country-folk. If a man is killed, his death is regarded as an unavoidable accident, and the authorities take no notice of it. On one of these occasions Kim, my interpreter, had received a blow on the head, which had laid him up for two months, and left a big dent in his skull.

Of their stone-throwing I saw something the second day I was in Phyöng-yang. I happened to be idly throwing stones into the river from a height, and three or four men who were near came up and matched themselves against me. The act struck me as exceedingly un-Oriental, and evidently betokened a friendly feeling on their part, rather than the reverse.

It would be unfair to the women of Phyöng-yang to omit a mention of their head-dress. There seemed to be a passion among the poor people for enormous basket hats; but those of the women were gigantic, and required both hands to keep them in position. One which I measured was three and a half feet long, by two and a half feet wide, and its depth was two and a half feet.

When not wearing these hats, the women wore

a white veil or garment, instead of the green-sleeved cloak which is thrown over the head in Soul, and, owing perhaps to the more becoming dress, they certainly looked less ill-favoured than their sisters in the south.



STREET SCENE.

CHAPTER XI

Gehazi—Sick dog—Agricultural returns—Manchurian cottons—Repairing bridges—Honey logs—An-ju—Visitors—Country fair—Chinese traders—Out berrying—Honours to the dead—Brass workers—The woman found out—Relation between nature and man—Youthful pedestrian—View of Wi-ju—Arrive after dark—Bright lads.

Oct. 6, *Bar.* 30.03. — The Governor had very kindly met my draft upon him, payable in the capital, with a sufficient supply of cash to carry me on to the frontier; but though an advance of pay had been given over-night to the pony-drivers, they were all discontented and unready to start. It became necessary to hunt them up in their stables, and almost to repeat the agonies of the start from Soul. By 9 A.M. all were under way, except Kim the interpreter, who was not to be found even then. He only turned up after we had waited for him an hour outside the city gates. He had no excuse to offer; but I found that he had utilised the time to appropriate some tobacco, which had been sent to me with other things by the Governor, and returned with my compliments.

Curiously enough, towards mid-day we again found ourselves in company with the woman on horseback. She was this time provided with a white umbrella, a thing never seen in the hands of a Corean woman. She had made the same stages as ourselves as far as Phyöng-yang; but it seemed so strange that the length of her stay in the town should coincide with ours, that I charged Kim with knowing something about her. He declared, however, that she was a perfect stranger to him.

At a little distance from the town I noticed two large slabs of stone standing upright in the fields. On walking up to them I found that they had apparently been used in days gone past for holding some big flag-post in position; but it must have been of unusual proportions, for the holes in the stones through which the pins had been passed were twelve feet apart, and I learnt afterwards that the stones were of sufficient importance to be marked in some of the maps of Corea.

A little way off the road lay Keum-san, "gold hill." The gold washings there were said to have been very valuable, but to have been stopped by the Government. All the country round was of disintegrated granite, and in some places the mica and felspar had become quite separated from the other constituents of the rock. Large fields of black

rice were grown in the lower grounds, and gave a blighted appearance to the crops.

Sam, my retriever, gave a great deal of trouble on the road. Some of the barbed grass-seeds, which are such a well-known curse to dogs at Shanghai, had got into his legs at Chemulpo, and had begun to fester. I had cut the sores open and extracted some of the seeds, but others had been scratched in too deep for recovery. He suffered so much from these sores, that I had bought a strong basket at Phyöng-yang, and tied him down in it. The ponies, however, were frightened to death at such a load, and he struggled so much that his position on pony-back was very dangerous. We therefore hired some men to carry him, but they too were scared of their burden, and no wonder, for pain and discomfort made the dog very savage. About once in two miles he would bite the cords into pieces, and jump out looking fit to treat his porters in the same fashion as the cords.

One of the men bolted before we had gone ten miles, and I went into a cottage to try to find a substitute. It was a beautiful autumn day, and the crops in places were being cut and carried, but there were half a dozen grown-up men sitting in the hut smoking. One of them was with a little difficulty induced to lend a hand for a few miles, by which time the basket had given way under the dog's

weight, and consisted of little else than a hole held together by some osiers.

Things had gone so wrongly that it was impossible to do more than half a day's journey, and we accordingly stopped at Sun-an, a town of about 700 huts. One of the villagers took me out in search of wildfowl, but the whole neighbourhood was so interested in my doings that it was impossible to get near any birds, let alone bustard, which however were plentiful.

The official of the place was away on a visit to Soul, and, perhaps owing to his absence, half a dozen of the villagers responded to my invitation to have a pipe in the evening. The head man of the village was one of the number, and they all gave evidence of considerable acquaintance with the topics on which I questioned them; but the difficulties of obtaining any statistical information from such a source proved rather serious to me.

When asked as to the yield of the different crops to the *mow* (about six of which = an acre), they answered that land there was not measured by the *mow*, but by the extent that two bulls can plough in a day. The yield that year was only fifty per cent owing to rain, but in good years the yield to this unit of measurement would, of *kao liang* (tall millet), be about fifteen to twenty bull loads, including straw; of small millet, twenty to thirty loads, in-

cluding straw; of the loose panicled millet, about fifty loads; of rice, thirty loads; of yellow beans, fifteen; and of green beans, ten loads. The yield of grain from a load varied from six pints of rice and two of loose millet to a peck of yellow beans and one and one-fifth peck of green beans.

As to cotton goods, the native manufactures, measuring 12 fathoms × 2 hands wide, cost 600 cash a piece; and Manchurian cloth, measuring 10 fathoms × 1½ hands, cost 450 cash. (Cash at the time were valued at about 850=$1.)

Bulls fetched from 8000 to 9000 cash, and cows 7000.

I give these notes just to show the terrible tangle of information which has sometimes to be unravelled in countries where weights and measures are practically unknown. In this instance the puzzle proved beyond my powers, and I never succeeded in producing a comparative table of the crops.

Oct. 7, *Bar.* 29.93.—A string of fourteen carts, bound for Soul, and laden with Manchurian cotton goods, was passed just outside Sun-an. This cloth is said to be specially used for trousers and foot wrappings, and to be of a very substantial material. The men in charge of the carts were fine strong fellows, and had evidently been chosen as able to protect the goods committed to their care. The

venture was out and out the largest and most valuable that I saw on any part of my journey.

A little way further on we came across a large party of men repairing a bridge. About 100 of them were at work, some fixing the wooden uprights and staying them up, others arranging cross layers of branches and brushwood on the uprights, and others filling in the interstices with earth. Coreans always seem to enjoy working in company, and many of the men were singing. The parties told off to fetch earth were throwing it into baskets with largish spades, on to which cords were fastened. A gang of seven or eight men worked a spade between them. One man drove it into the side of a bank, and then the whole party pulling at the cords together, and keeping time to a slow chant, dragged at the spade, and heaved the earth into baskets. The amount of earth which reached the right destination was about equal to the ordinary spadeful of an English navvy, but the work was necessarily slower, as the men had to keep time with each other.

The repair of bridges proved to be one of the ordinary autumn operations of villagers, and many similar scenes were witnessed, though generally on a smaller scale, on the road between Phyöng-yang and Wi-ju.

At Sok-chhön, where we halted at mid-day, the

magistrate came to call on me, though his residence lay half a mile away from the village through which the road passed. He came very simply, with only a few followers, and was very friendly, but the moment I turned to him for information, his manner became cold and suspicious.

As the afternoon stage was a long one, we made a shorter halt than usual, but the saving in time at lunch proved afterwards no gain, as both men and horses showed signs of fatigue for want of a proper halt. ..The country still continued much the same, but there were occasionally signs of limestone, and in one place even of blue marl. About forty *li* (thirteen miles) outside of An-ju we found a party of men who had been sent by the chief magistrate to meet us. The traffic on the road was more considerable than in most parts, and several bulls were passed laden with honey packed in hollow logs, a mode of carrying honey said to be common also in Mongolia.

Night came on before we reached our destination, and but little could be seen of the town. It was noticeable, however, that while most of the people had already (6.30 P.M.) turned in, the coppersmiths were still hard at work.

Our arrival at the *yamên* produced a terrible turmoil. It was known that I was coming, for the Governor of the province had very kindly written

from Phyông-yang requiring the officers on the road to show me every attention; but I had not been expected to make so long a march—forty miles—in one day, and the quarters intended for my accommodation had not yet been vacated. The servants who were in them laid hands upon their possessions and bolted with all possible speed, and the moment that they were out other men came and laid down beautiful matting on the floor. A little pillow, covered with matting, which they brought, proved irresistibly attractive to a lad who was standing outside. He dashed into the room, and out again with his booty, unseen except by me, and I did not feel called upon to pursue him among the crowd, which by this time filled the courtyard.

After a time the ponies came in with my traps, and then came callers—to wit, an aide-de-camp from the General and a local magnate. At last I got washed, and was just beginning dinner when more visitors were announced. There was barely time to clear the plates away, and an open bottle of porter was left standing against the wall. I invited my visitors, two local officials, to take their proper seats at the end of the room, but one of them was too humble. Nothing would content him but to squat down just in front of the bottle. He was so nervous that I did not like to disturb him, but I was very anxious for my bottle. After a time his

companion, who knew a little Chinese, began to talk about Chinese and foreigners, and I forgot all about the shy man. At last I turned to him, and he made an answering movement which upset the bottle. The poor man's embarrassment was extreme, and I felt deeply for him and for the untimely loss of a friend, whose death had wrought such havoc on my visitor's clothing.

Oct. 8, *Bar.* 29.99.—Early in the morning I paid a visit to a tower on the city wall, from which there is a view of the country round. The tower was spoken of as the one place worth seeing in the town, and its fame had won for it some frescoes, illustrative of the lives of the God of War and the other heroes of the *Memoirs of the Three Kingdoms.* Decorations of this kind were said to be provided by the people in years of plenty, and in the same manner tablets in honour of officials are erected at the people's cost. The outlets for expenditure among this simple people, hemmed in by sumptuary laws, are so few, that the ornamentation of their towns would appear to offer a grateful mode of employing surplus moneys, for neither on their houses nor their clothes could much money be spent without exciting trouble.

Looking from the tower north there was a good view of the valley of the Ching-chêng Kang, a shallow river which empties itself into the sea a few

miles west of An-ju. On either side of the tower ran the city wall, looking sheer down into the plain seventy or eighty feet below the crest of the hill. Its difficulty of attack on the north side, and its position at the entrance to a defile in the hills, through which the main road passes, render An-ju the most important military station between Phyŏng-yang and Wi-ju. There were, however, said to be only 300 men quartered at An-ju, under the general in command of the place, and they were only called out for drill in spring and autumn.

After paying some official calls, I followed my ponies across the sandy valley, which testified to the extent of the summer floods, and was ferried across the river at a part about 150 yards wide. Poor country extended for some distance on the opposite bank, but on crossing the ridge which lies south of Pak-chhŏn, a very pretty valley was entered. The business part of the town lay along the bank of a beautiful river 200 yards wide. Junks were drawn up close to the bank, and a market in full swing gave an air of prosperity to the place which was very pleasing. The business, however, was confined to very small dealings. Victoria lawns, shirtings, hempen cloth, iron, earthenware pots, aniline dyes, and half a score of cattle were the more important things for sale, and of the rest there is hardly need to speak.

In spite of the crowd congregated in the thoroughfare, the people were very civil, and did not attempt to hustle me, nor did they show any sign of ill-will. A ferry-boat took us across the river, and we pushed on to Ka-san, which is little more than a village, except for its official rank. The magistrate was absent, but I had fair quarters given me, where one of his prisoners paid me a call. The man had got into trouble through some trading transactions, in which he had attempted to cheat the owner of a Chinese junk. This was the only case I heard of in which there had been any intercourse between Chinese and Coreans on the coast.

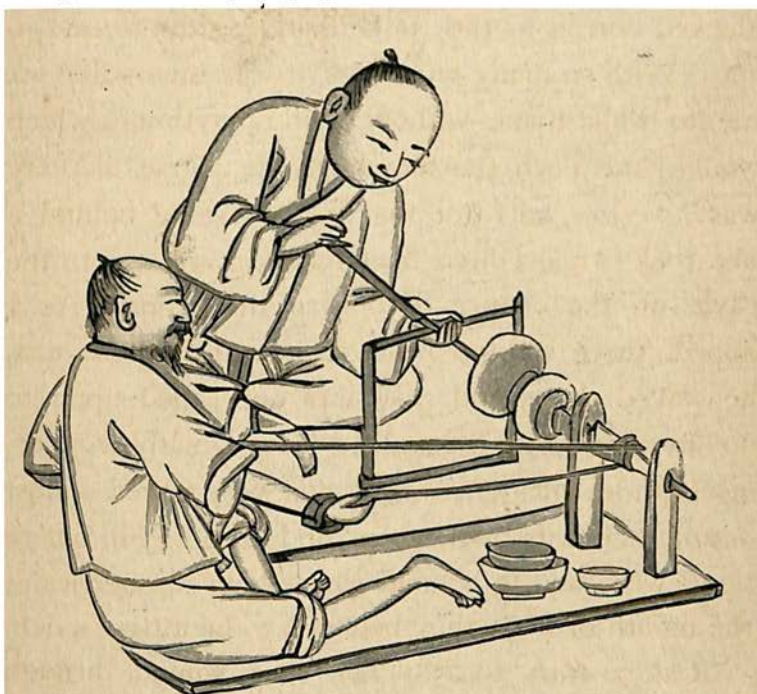
In the afternoon I essayed to get some shooting, from which the magistrate's representative endeavoured to dissuade me by accounts of tigers and panthers. No men would come with me, but after great difficulty, I got together some boys of seventeen and eighteen to beat, and started up a hill on which there was some very likely cover for deer. The beaters, however, were quite useless, and in despair I climbed the hill, which is 1000 feet high, and from it had a good view of the sea and the mouth of the An-ju River. Coming home by another road, I found that the villagers had collected on a hill to watch us, and on our reaching a rocky part of the valley, they shouted out that two tigers were in a cave formed by some

loose boulders. As I had professed great anxiety to see some tigers, my beaters urged me to go and shoot these beasts in their lair, and took me without more ado to the mouth of the cave. Over the entrance hung some bushes, from which the lads plucked berries as they talked, and waited for me to act. With so many onlookers, it was impossible for me to walk home without doing anything, which would have been the more sensible course, as there was no cover, so I got the boys to stand behind a big rock, while I fired a couple of barrels into the cave, on the chance of bolting the game. As I hoped, there was no beast inside, or, if there was, he stayed there, and as I was not called upon to do anything further, I walked home greatly wondering at those villagers, whose men were scared almost out of their wits at the idea of beating a hill where tigers were said to be, and whose boys ate berries at the mouth of what they believed to be a tiger's den.

Oct. 9, *Bar.* 30.05.—The road wound through very picturesque valleys, fairly wooded, and among hills, some of which were over 1000 feet in height. On the way we passed one of the curious monuments which are erected to "doctors of literature." It consisted of the stem of a tree painted like a barber's pole for some thirty feet from the ground. The top and branches had been cut off, and on the summit rested a carving in wood about twenty feet long representing

a dragon with a forked tail. From the head, which resembled that of an alligator, hung cords, to which small brass bells and a wooden fish were attached.

Eight miles out of Ka-san we came on a little village named Nap-tjen, where I was at once



BRASS-POLISHING.

struck by the unusual sight of artisans, grimed with smoke and dirt. The place turned out to be the residence of a number of brass workers. The copper that they used came from Kang-ge, in the far north-east of the province, and I could not learn what reason there was for this industry having

attached itself to this spot; but the men said that their families had for generations worked in brass at Nap-tjen, and I afterwards learnt that they were well known for the goodness of their work.

Shortly before reaching Chung-ju, our mid-day resting-place, I found that the Corean woman was again a fellow-traveller with us. As we had made only a half-day's journey the previous day, the coincidence had but one explanation. I asked Kim why he had brought his wife with him, and he replied that she had seized the opportunity of his travelling north to pay a visit to his relations at Wi-ju. As he had only a few days previously denied all knowledge of the woman, this statement seemed somewhat extraordinary.

After a short halt at Chung-ju, where a market was being held, and where some 100 head of cattle were standing awaiting a purchaser, we pushed on to Kwak-san. Facing the town stands a hill, which serves as a prominent landmark for miles along the coast. On its face there still exist the remains of what was once a fortress, built apparently in a place where no water would be procurable. As the hill stood somewhat apart from the main chain, I climbed to the summit to gain a view of the country behind it, and was much surprised to see no villages, nor any signs of cultivation, except between the hill and the sea. The view seawards extended

past the beacon hill of Kwak-san to a line of rocks, grouped in the sea like courtiers on their knees, and facing, as the natives pointed out, like courtiers, towards the capital. The tide was in at the time, but from all that I could learn, the mud-flats, like those at Chemulpo, are almost limitless at low tide.

The remark about the position of the hills was one of many heard at different times, which all showed how great is the influence of natural objects upon the life of Coreans. It is not merely that they delight in beautiful scenery, but that they feel that a harmony is required between the works of nature and of their king. Where the king lives mountains must stand behind his chair, and hills be his footstool. It is but natural that they should do him homage, and if his palace is pitched where homage cannot be paid to him by them, the site is wrongly chosen. The same rule seemed to govern the choice of the sites of all official buildings, and thus, in many cases, the towns are divided into two portions, a mile or more apart, the one resting against a hill and the other near the high road.

Oct. 10, *Bar.* 30.26.—Judging from the maps, the road in this part of the province seems to skirt the sea, but the only place from which really even a glimpse of it was visible from the road was a few miles south of Chung-ju, and at Kwak-san we parted from it finally.

In such weather, and through such a succession of lovely hills and valleys, travelling was very enjoyable, and this day's journey was especially pleasant, though little of note occurred. At Son-chhön, where we halted, the magistrate had ordered all the people within their houses, and I was escorted through the street by a score of men gorgeously attired, but at a pace on which they had never calculated. My pony, spurred, I fancy, by his owner, tore through the town screaming and snorting. The pony boy, holding on to him by the bridle, flew along by his side. The servants dashed along, hitting at any man whom they saw in the street. One or two men were upset by dogs, and thus, in a state of wild tumult and disorder, we arrived at the magistrate's house.

Courteous as all Coreans are, his manner was even unusually so. The rooms which he had prepared for me were invitingly clean, and offered a strong inducement to accept his invitation to stay, but there had been too many halts already to allow of another short stage. The magistrate then insisted on his body-servant going with me so long as I was within his jurisdiction, and sped me on my journey with many friendly speeches.

Outside the town, and facing a level green, stood a little pavilion, overlooking the archery ground. There the magistrate's guard left me, and I went on,

full of pleasant impressions of the place and its surroundings.

About three miles out we met a little boy, who turned with us and stuck to the pony drivers as though they were old acquaintances. I inquired



ARCHERS.

about him, and found that he was one of three orphan brothers, and was on his way from Wi-ju to hunt up a brother at Phyöng-yang. The attractions of my belongings, and especially of Sam, made him change his mind and return with us to Wi-ju (fifty miles) before carrying out his longer journey. He

was quite alone, though only thirteen years old, and without money, but he trotted along by the side of the ponies without showing any sign of fatigue or hunger.

Sam had by this time become a great nuisance. No basket would hold him for more than a few days, and whenever he chose, he bit in two the cords which were passed over his body. The men, too, were afraid of carrying him, and as I found that in some cases they were impressed against their will, I gave up the attempt to carry him any further. Fortunately, the rest which he had had sufficed to allay inflammation, and the wounds healed, leaving two large callosities.

In the afternoon we came upon a walled town, named Tong-nim, not marked in the maps, behind which was a stretch of wood with most refreshing shade. This lasted for a couple of miles, and owed its existence, it was said, to an official who was specially told off for its protection.

Our night's quarters at Chhöl-san were very bad, as we had to content ourselves with a broken-down inn, owing to the official living some miles from the town, and I somewhat regretted having sent back the Son-chhön magistrate's servant, who would have been invaluable on such an occasion.

Oct. 11, *Bar.* 30.15.—The morning's walk lay through Welsh scenery of hills and brooks. But

little ground was under cultivation until we reached a wide valley near Mawli-fjin, half-way to Wi-ju. As usual, the few miles of flat ground proved very irksome after being accustomed to lovely scenery, and it was a treat to ascend the last ridge that lay between us and Wi-ju. There were several villages near its foot, and a number of travellers on the move.

On reaching the crest, the sight that first struck the eye was the delicious greenery formed by limes, birches, and other trees overhanging the road; but, on leaving the wood, one awoke to the fact that a gorgeous wall of red maple ran along the hill-top towards the sea. The sight was amazingly beautiful, and explained a saying common near Soul of the maples in autumn being more lovely than the azaleas in spring.

Contrary to the general custom, the road wound for some distance along terraces cut in the hills, and at last the view of Wi-ju opened out. Across the valley, which was five miles wide, ran an avenue leading to a low hill, on which the city stood by the waters of the Yalu. On the far bank, several fine mountains stood out prominently among the ranges which shut in the view to the west and north, and the river shone out like a wide streak of silver at their base.

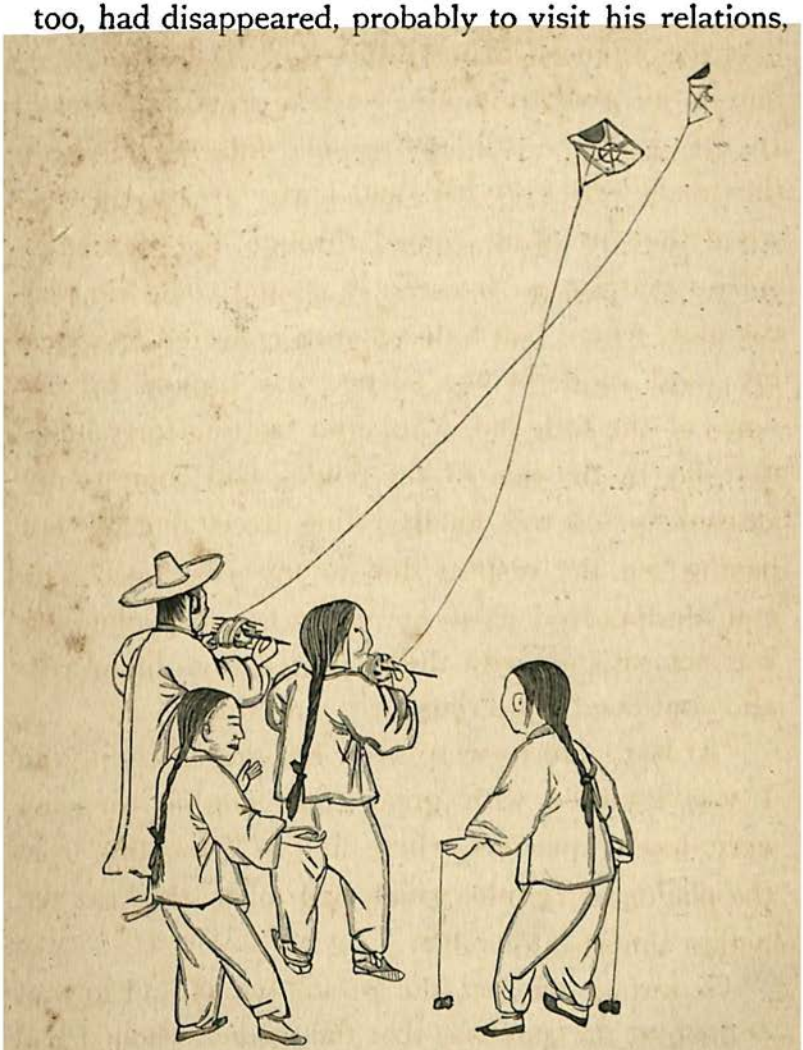
The day was too late to allow of long delay.

Knowing that Wi-ju was a walled town, I hurried on a soldier to keep the city gate open until the baggage animals arrived, and Kim hastened after him on his pony to inquire where I could be lodged. In the dark the suburbs seemed interminable, for the roads were very bad, and I was greatly pleased when the city wall loomed through the darkness. As no one was to be seen, I waited some time at the gate, where half a dozen men collected to watch me; and suddenly the silence was broken by the voice of the little lad, who, after trotting forty miles that day by the side of the ponies, had come to my assistance, and was loudly rating every one for not paying me the respect due to my position. The men disappeared as if by magic, but the youngster was not satisfied with the respect paid to his words, and continued muttering for a long time.

At last lanterns were seen heaving in sight, and I was escorted with great consideration to some very decent quarters, where at last I was free from the plague of vermin, which had made the past ten nights almost intolerable.

It turned out that the reason why I had to wait so long at the gate was that the soldier whom I had sent on had omitted to take my passport, and the Lieutenant-Governor refused, on this account, to recognise him or me. The soldier thereupon had considered his responsibility at an end, and had sat

down in the *yamên* to smoke many pipes. Kim, too, had disappeared, probably to visit his relations,



BOYS FLYING KITES.

and but for the little boy, I might have waited another hour or more, for I could not venture to leave the gate until my ponies had arrived.

This incident served to heighten the respect which I already felt for the bright little ragamuffins whom we saw in the streets and on the roads, always laughing and joking, and thoroughly masters of the situation. By the time that their pigtails had been tied in a married man's knot, which, in the lowest rank of life, was frequently not until well past twenty, their whole manner had altered, their humour had vanished, the whole of their thoughts seemed devoted to tobacco, and even the features of the face seemed altered, owing to the constant strain on the facial muscles used in supporting three feet of pipe-stem.

CHAPTER XII

Wi-ju—Neutral zone incorporated in China—Restrictions on intercourse between Coreans and Chinese—Attitude of *pu-yin* towards foreigners—Falling off in trade—Merchant's house—Refused entrance into Manchuria.

THE population of Wi-ju is far larger in proportion to the extent of the space enclosed within the walls than is generally the case in Corean towns, as the whole of the ground is built over, and there are large suburbs outside the wall, but the circuit of the walls is so small that even the lowest of the estimates, which ranged from 3000 to 10,000 houses, appeared hardly credible.

Both commercially and politically, Wi-ju has always been an important place. Standing on the high-road to China, it has always been the depot of the ginseng trade, of which Wi-ju merchants have almost monopolised the export. In Wi-ju all the traders who attended the periodical Chino-Corean fairs used to congregate, and through Wi-ju passed the annual missions sent to China, and the rarer embassies from the court of Peking. In like

manner, all the armies which have passed from Corea into Sheng-king, and from Sheng-king into Corea, have taken the route through Wi-ju, and its position on the great river Amnok or Yalu has made it the depot of the vast quantities of timber which yearly come down in rafts from the mountains in the heart of the country.

Even at the present day Wi-ju is the only outlet on the north-western frontier by which Coreans are permitted to enter China, and Chinese are still forbidden to enter Corea overland even by this gate, except when accompanying the formal missions which from time to time are despatched from Peking to Soul. But though communications by land between the two countries are still greatly hampered, Corea is no longer marked off from China by the great desert zone of country, about forty miles in width, which until 1875 existed between the frontiers of the two countries. In those days the only trade between the two peoples was carried on at fairs held three times a year under official superintendence. The traders did their business between dawn and sunset, and retired within their own lines at dark, and any infraction of these regulations, as regarded either trade or the inviolability of the neutral zone, was liable to the severest penalty. Latterly, however, so many lawless people had established themselves in this rich belt of no-man's land, that it became

necessary to establish law and authority there, and China resumed the possession of what she had previously resigned, in the interests of peace, with her neighbour, and, with the change of frontier, some of the restrictions on intercourse between the two peoples were removed.

Coreans now are at liberty to travel in Manchuria under passport, to import goods thither from Corea, and to bring down produce under transit passes. These advantages are not reciprocated, but, on the other hand, the Chinese have, either by arrangement or through their superior skill as sailors, the virtual monopoly of the river trade above Wi-ju. The only Corean interest on the upper parts of the river appears to be confined to the rafts of timber which are floated down in the summer floods to Wi-ju, and only a little angling is done by Corean boatmen, as the fishing rights are expressly reserved to China.

The boatmen, who are almost entirely Shantung men, are prohibited from landing on the Corean bank, but the prohibition is to a certain extent disregarded on the wilder portions of the river, and occasionally even at Wi-ju. The up-cargoes were said to consist almost entirely of crockery and salt, but I have since learnt that in some parts at any rate the Chinese settlers are largely dependent upon the boats for their supplies of food.

The down freights are chiefly timber, minerals, and furs.

The extraordinary seclusion in which Corea so long remained seemed the more wonderful as we looked across the river towards the busy towns which have already sprung up on the right bank, and remembered how for forty years the Roman Catholic missionaries endeavoured in vain to effect an entrance into the country. Their great difficulty seems to have existed in entering by Wi-ju, and we wondered why the guides, who risked death in introducing the missionaries into Corea, did not take them to some point on the river high above Wi-ju, where a fishing-boat could have brought them over without attracting attention.

The magistrate (*pu-yin*), who called on me the morning after my arrival, seemed to consider that the difficulty now was to enter China from Corea. I had applied for a passport from Peking, but none had arrived when I left Soul, and he declared that, under the circumstances, it would be impossible for me to enter China. He further assured me that I could not cross Corea in the northern latitudes, and strongly recommended me to return to Soul by the shortest route. His whole manner and tone showed very plainly that he did not like foreigners, and that such civility as he extended to me was merely due to instructions that he had received from the

Governor, whose letter I found more efficient everywhere north of Phyöng-yang than the passport issued by the Corean Foreign Office.

After the *pu-yin* had left, I walked down to the river, hoping to find evidence of considerable trade. In all I counted nineteen little boats lying about 150 yards from the bank. On the far side several Chinese junks were dropping down stream and others were being tracked up, but on the Wi-ju side there was nothing doing. For the moment commercial activity was represented by a man carrying a string of salt fish, and local industry by a score or two of women washing their lords' clothing.

Even of timber there was hardly any show. A few logs, eight feet in length and two and a half feet in diameter, were the best specimens that I could see, but there was not much of any kind.

A small building was pointed out as the custom house, but the man in charge of the building professed complete ignorance of customs matters, and a two-storied building, built of bricks in Chino-European fashion, was referred to as a government warehouse, but it contained no wares.

In despair of discovering any trade, I asked to be introduced to the principal merchant. Kim, who was a native of Wi-ju, took me to his house at once, and I met with a very civil reception. My host was a man of fifty-five, with a large family, most of

whom were present, together with several friends who had come to dine with him. He seemed pleased at my visit, and asked me to join in the dinner, which shortly appeared served on a separate table to each person. There were some half a dozen dishes, in which pork and rice were helped out by sauces, vegetables, and spirits, and though simple, the meal was more luxurious than any I had previously seen in a Corean house. The room was about thirty feet long, half-open to the courtyard, and skirted by a wooden balcony, on which a crowd of sightseers soon collected.

On the walls were Chinese scrolls, and some small panes of glass were let into the windows. And in addition to these unusual ornaments there was some furniture consisting of a few low tables and wooden stands.

The merchant showed no sign of constraint in his manner, though a man from the *pu-yin's yamên* was present who was sure to report all the conversation that took place. He ascribed the falling off in the local business to the opening of ports on the coast to foreign trade, and said that at the time of the annual fairs there was still a decent trade doing. The chief trade with China consisted in hides, paper, cotton cloths, and *bêches de mer.* Furs to the value of about $10,000 were bought inland by commercial travellers, and sent direct to China; but, as a rule,

the trade was one of barter. To this cause was due the fact that English shirtings sometimes are sent to Soul from Wi-ju. But the English goods were inferior to the native on account of the superiority of the Corean fibre.

After smoking several pipes, and answering many questions about England, I left to return the *pu-yin's* call. He made no secret of his dislike to the breaking down of the old barriers of seclusion, and would not allow that the change could bring any advantage to Corea.

After much pressure about the trade that was carried on through Wi-ju with China, of which I knew that returns were sent to Soul, he sent for his head clerk, and asked him such questions as I desired. The man, who appeared to be the head permanent officer on the staff, remained on his knees, with his head almost touching the floor, while the examination lasted. He declared that no copies existed of the returns, and that no one knew anything of their contents. As it was evident that all my questions were regarded with suspicion, I reverted to commonplaces, and then left.

Oct. 13.—Early in the morning I got into a ferry-boat and essayed to cross over into Manchuria. The river at this point is very wide, and consists of three branches. The first branch was about 200 yards wide, and shallow. Beyond it lay a sandy

island, only partly cultivated, about a third of a mile wide. On the far side of the island lay the main channel of the river, of about the same width, but twenty to twenty-five feet deep; and beyond it again the island of *chung-chiang*, "mid-river." On landing there, we were met by some servants of the Chinese resident official, and asked to return at once to Wi-ju. They professed to be unable to allow me to pass; and after calling at the official's house, I gave up the attempt, and fell back in the faint hope of receiving a passport from the official at Chiu-lien Cheng, to whom a letter had already been despatched on the subject.

It is perhaps unfair to complain of the conduct of these servants, who were only doing their duty, but I was exceedingly annoyed at their behaviour. My annoyance was also increased by the comic nature of the case, for my duties properly entailed my residence in China, and it was only temporarily that I was detached to Corea.

There was no boat to be found for hire, which could take me down the river to the nearest Chinese town, An-tung, so I was constrained to recross the river and see what I could of it from the wrong bank. While crossing the ferries I was much struck with the light tackle of some fishermen, who were using lines of silk mixed with horse-hair and barbed hooks.

At the landing-place were two men waiting to cross over to China with two packages of deers' horns, some of the antlers three feet long. These horns belong to a deer called the *sa shum*, of which I have never seen a specimen, but judging from the footprints, it must be a relation of the red deer.

The river widened out so much lower down that, after walking six or seven miles, there was no better view of An-tung than we had from Wi-ju; but a closer acquaintance with the river gave a much better idea of its magnitude. The water was then about twelve feet below the bank, and the river opposite An-tung was at least two miles wide; but the extensive plain on the left bank had suffered considerably from inundations during the summer.

An-tung seems to be the highest point which boats of 100 piculs burden can make. Larger junks are said to discharge their cargo either at Ta-ku Shan, on the coast thirty miles off, or at Mil-ku-fjin, a village of about 100 houses about half-way between the two towns.

The number of Chinese cottages scattered about on the opposite shore seemed very considerable, and the difference between them and the Corean huts was very largely in favour of the former. With the glass I was able to count twenty-six substantial houses built of brick at Chiu-lien Cheng, and An-tung was

said to contain several hundred houses within its walls. An-tung is one of the four new centres of government established by China in this newly-opened country. The others, viz. Kuan-tien, Huai-yuan, and Tung-hua are higher up the river.



FEMALE MUSICIANS.

CHAPTER XIII

Protestant converts—Wi-ju market—Leave Wi-ju—River scenery—Dearth of fruit-trees—Effects of unscientific cultivation—Acts of courtesy—Chhang-sŏng—First rapid of the Amnok.

Oct. 14, *Bar.* 29.93.—I was very reluctant to abandon all hope of visiting the newly-opened country on the north bank of the Amnok, but I could not afford to waste much time at Wi-ju on the slight chance of receiving my passport; and I therefore arranged with the *pu-yin* for it to be forwarded after me if it came. One of the ponies which had broken down had been replaced by a fresh mount, and the weight of their loads had been somewhat reduced; but all the difficulties of the start from Soul had again to be gone through at Wi-ju. In the midst of the confusion of the start two young Coreans called on me, who said that they were Protestant converts, and had travelled a good deal with some English missionary from Newchwang. Their manners were very pleasant, and I endeavoured to induce one of them to come with me in Kim's place; but, unfortunately, there was not

sufficient time left to make the necessary arrangements. Ignorant of the risk which he ran of being abandoned, Kim was engaged in saying good-bye to his wife and parents, and in arranging the details of a big squeeze on an advance made in cash to the pony-drivers.

One of the tri-monthly markets was held in Wiju on the day of our departure, and a considerable number of people had already collected in the town, while others were coming in by the different roads. I could not, however, see anything in the market that was worth carrying away as a memento; and I was greatly disappointed in the cattle, which struck me as inferior, rather than superior, to those near the capital.

The *pu-yin* had, in return for a draft on the Consulate-General at Soul, provided me with the kind of cash which are in use in this part of the country, and which are much superior to the debased coinage used further south. As he had every year to remit considerable sums to Soul, I had imagined that my drafts would have saved him much expense in carriage of cash; but he said that his remittances had to be sent in long before they were due, and that consequently my drafts would not be required for some months to come. Owing to the barren condition of his treasury he was only able to furnish me with 35,000 cash, and I con-

sulted with his steward as to the rate at which this sum should be repaid. An edict had recently been promulgated, placing the large cash on the same footing with the smaller and purer cash; but the disparity in their value was so well known that I thought it right to draw a draft at the market value. The steward assented; but when I was about six miles outside the city, I was overtaken by a messenger on horseback, charged with a message from the *pu-yin* asking me to alter my draft to the same number of cash that I had received, as after the promulgation of the king's edict the *pu-yin* could not recognise any difference in the value of the two kinds of cash. I protested, but in vain, against what meant a serious loss to him, and am glad now to repay him in some degree by recording his obedience to the king's commands.

The little boy, who had escorted me and Sam to Wi-ju, had with great reluctance left us there. He had been very anxious to accompany us to Soul; but I was afraid that the boy might tire and have to be left in some place where he would have no friends, and had therefore refused to listen to his entreaties, though the pony-drivers offered to supply his food on the road. A present of money entirely failed to console him for his loss of companions, and there seemed little pleasure in store for him unless he started off again to Phyöng-yang.

I had discovered by this time that a man, who pretended to be one of the pony-drivers, had really tacked himself on to a friend—the man who owned my riding pony—having apparently no other friend in the world, and no livelihood of any kind. The poor fellow had become so weak from lack of food that he seemed quite unfit for such a journey; but as he urgently begged to be allowed to keep with his friend, I let him come, and arranged that at any rate he should not want for food.

I congratulated myself on having at any rate got rid of Kim's wife. As we passed his father's house, she dashed out with a clean white coat for him to wear, and their adieux were made, not without tears, in the street. But I soon found out that another follower had appeared in her place. This time it was a man, who professed to be an employé of the Wi-ju custom house, on a visit to a friend a hundred miles east of Wi-ju. Whether in reality he was a spy, or simply an idler, I am unable to say, but he accompanied us the whole way to Soul, and talked almost the whole time. At first I thought myself lucky in being able to learn through this chance much of the working of the Customs, to which otherwise I could gain no clue; but by degrees it dawned on me that, like many other of his countrymen, he had acquired great skill in the art of answering questions, and that his ingenuity

would, if allowed, develop out of the slightest groundwork of fact a vast scheme of fiscal government.

On this part of the road we met a country yokel, whom Kim accosted. The poor fellow turned very red and a loud laugh passed along the string of drivers. A little later Kim came up to me and asked whether I had noticed the man. On my answering that I had not seen anything peculiar about him, Kim said that the man had blue eyes, and had been chaffed by him on the subject.

This was the only case of blue eyes that I came across, but otherwise the variety of facial types was very great. Among the officials whom I had seen, some were of a Manchu type, others had straight-cut features with bushy whiskers, others again had round ruddy faces like the old type of an English "squarson," and others were distinctly Jewish. Among the common folk the variety was not so great, but even with them it is easier for a European to distinguish faces than is generally the case in Oriental countries.

For a few miles out of Wi-ju we met several persons coming to market, but beyond the radius of this centre of attraction the road became very deserted. Narrow valleys, thinly inhabited, succeeded to the wide valley of the Amnok. Near Wi-ju we had passed one or two banks of gravel,

but the hills were composed of limestone and micaceous schist, with granite and porphyry.

The road very soon narrowed considerably and became a mere mountain track, only just wide enough for two ponies to pass each other when loaded. The condition of the road was decidedly good, except where it crossed the bed of a stream, but this condition was due rather to the nature of the soil than to any labour that had been expended upon it.

Narrow valley succeeded to narrow valley, and stream to stream. Hardly a soul was to be seen. Crops were few and scanty. Indian corn, tobacco, and hemp were grown, though only in small patches, more commonly than south of Wi-ju, and the ordinary cereals, including buckwheat, were also occasionally cultivated, but the whole character of the hills was opposed to agriculture. The steep slopes were evidently unable to retain any soil after the undergrowth had been cleared away. Heavy rains had washed down piles of loose stones with the soil, so that the valleys were no better than the hillsides. No terraces had been raised to stop the damage done by the rains, and the people had been driven to go higher and higher up the hills to search for soil. The further we advanced, the more thoroughly was this state of things impressed upon me, until at last the occurrence of a cabbage plot, twenty yards

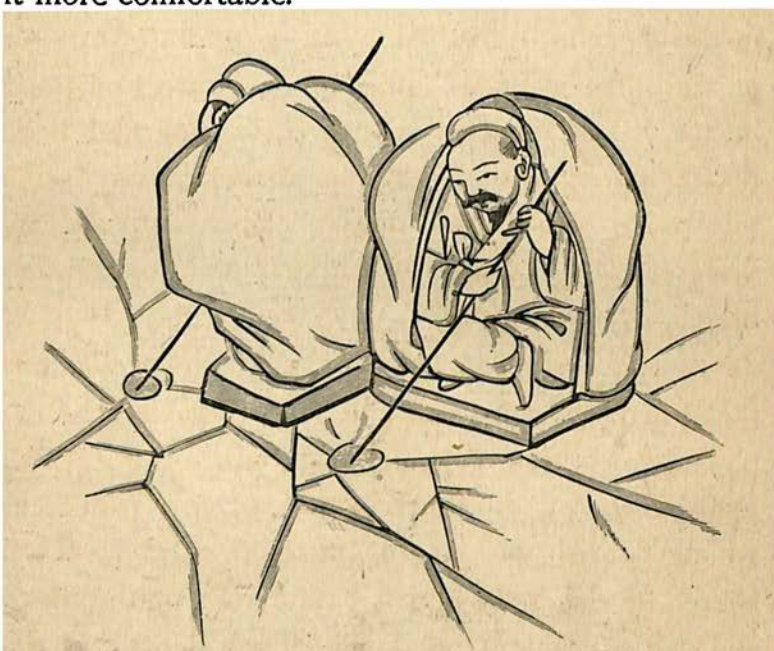
square, on the top of a hill 300 or 400 feet high, excited little surprise.

At O-kang, sixty *li* from Wi-ju, we for the first time rejoined the Amnok, which we had left in the early morning. A fleet of twenty-five Chinese boats was working slowly up stream, and a number of mergansers were flying on ahead of them. There seemed to be but little current, and hardly a breath of air stirred the surface of the water, whose wide sheet, fenced in on the far side by steep mountains, stretched in a reach many miles long, holding in its bosom the image of the mountains, and in itself the picture of nature at rest.

For a little distance the road followed the bank of the river. Forty feet overhead were traces of the summer floods, in drift remaining in the branches of trees and shrubs. Of the road itself all sign soon disappeared, and after stumbling blindly over a mile or two of loose stones and boulders, we had to retrace our way, and cut a passage through the hills. The ponies had been carelessly packed, and the steep gradients soon sent their loads over their heads or quarters. To make things worse, darkness came on, and the outlook was becoming unpleasant, when voices were heard in the distance, and some men with flaring torches appeared on the scene. They had been sent by the head man of the village, at which we were to rest, who, knowing that we

were due that night, had guessed the cause of our delay, and sent to help us out of our difficulty.

The place was but a little village of ten houses, but a very decent building was ready for us, and clean mats had been strewn on the floor to make it more comfortable.



SPEARING FISH AT AIR-HOLES IN ICE.

Oct. 15, *Bar.* 29.90.—The first frost of the year had left its marks on some pools of water near the village; and it was heartily welcome, for with its coming there was good cause to hope for the disappearance of the vermin, which had made the nights horrible on the road to Wi-ju. Insect powder, carbolic oil, and various so-called vermin

destroyers had completely failed to keep my bedding even partially clear of these pests, and I bitterly regretted the absence of any travelling bed to raise me a few feet above the floor, in every cranny of which there lurked swarms of small carnivora.

After such experiences it was a treat to rise up in the morning refreshed by sleep, and the fine air of the hills seemed sufficient guarantee of good health. For those in lack of it, a cure had been prescribed by my landlord on an inscription inside my room, which ran thus: "The cure for all diseases: On the first of the year hang up a peach branch over the door."

A very surprising feature of that part of Corea is the dearth of fruit-trees, and it is possible that the patentee of this medicine desired to benefit his fellow-men by the introduction of the fruit-trees which flourish on all the opposite and northern shores of the Yellow Sea. The rule that tobacco and the grape are found all the world over in the 40th parallel of north latitude seems in Corea only to hold good for tobacco. As for other fruits, such as pears, apples, peaches, and the like, which grow in such abundance between Chefoo and Shan-hai Kuan, I had seen nothing of the kind since leaving An-ju except a few fall-apples.

The road on leaving Chhang-söng followed the river for a couple of miles and then again struck

into a valley among the hills. As the hills were higher than those seen the previous day, the effects of unscientific cultivation were still more disastrous. The detritus constantly brought down by rains and frosts had in places buried the fields of the valleys under a moraine-like mass twenty-five to thirty feet deep. Even where it was still possible to till the ground, the bulls had to be specially harnessed, so that the ploughman might see between them what dangers lay ahead, in the shape of rocks and stones. For nearly 1000 feet up the wasteful practice had extended, but above that line ran a belt of woods, birch and other, with thick undergrowth, which prevented the hillsides from being completely denuded of their covering.

At the top of a ridge among these woods I found half a score of men, servants of the Sŏk-ju magistrate, waiting to receive me, when I entered his jurisdiction. They brought a message regretting that the town lay so far away, over seven miles, from the road that the magistrate could not come to meet me, and hoping that his men would be of some use to me. As a matter of fact, the escort of men of the kind had proved very inconvenient, as they were very prone to lay their sticks on the back of any one whom they found on the roads or streets. Any one riding was forced by them to dismount and stand by the roadside until I had passed, and no

man was allowed to smoke in my presence. Any fellow seen even 100 yards off was hailed with a cry, "Out with your pipe!" and these particular men stopped one fellow on horseback who was nearly 400 yards off. As to the use of their sticks, with great difficulty I impressed upon them that my desire was to avoid annoying man, woman, or child, but in spite of all my expostulations, it was seldom that I was allowed to enter a town without some man suffering for it. It was curious to see the astonishment with which they received the order not to strike men, and I believe that I earned the nickname of "Fji-fji-mal-a," "Don't beat," from the number of times I had to shout it to them.

The place where we stopped for lunch was a tiny little village, but everything was ready for us, owing to the magistrate's forethought. The ponies' food was cooked, the men's dinners ready, beautiful mats and cushions placed in the room, intended for me, and at the last moment up hurried two boys, one with a complete Corean dinner, and the other with a folding-screen to place behind my back. This latter is a piece of furniture which seems to form an essential part of any official's travelling gear, though quite useless except for effect, as it stands against the main wall of the room, where no draught can be.

The country in the afternoon grew still wilder,

and the villages more sparse. Another slow ascent, following the bed of a stream, brought us to the top of another ridge, beautifully wooded and rich in ferns. The maples were exquisite, and among them were well-grown oaks, hazels, and a bush like the hazel, which has a flower said to be white with large purple stamens. The road ran for a mile or so along the crest of the hills, commanding a wide view towards Chhang-söng. The drivers, like myself, felt the effect of the scenery, and dawdled on the road, with the result that we were again benighted. But being benighted is rather an advantage than otherwise when bodies of men are ready with huge hurdles of flaming reeds to show the road. The monotony of the day is then destroyed, and the beauties of daylight only give way to the weird effects of torchlight among the hills.

On entering the town of Chhang-söng we found tiny lamps formed of a rough wick in a small cup of oil standing in front of every house. No one was to be seen about, but evidently the whole population of the place were looking on unseen at the stranger for whose welcome they had made these preparations.

Near Chhang-söng is the first rapid of the Amnok, and up to this point there is no difficulty whatever in the navigation above Wi-ju. The depth of the river off the town was said by the

people to be from 300 to 500 feet. Their measurements, of course, are rude, but the fact that the river narrows there to about 400 to 500 yards in width gives some countenance to the belief, and in summer it evidently rose nearly forty feet above its then level.

CHAPTER XIV

Silk manufacture—Present of "tea"—Beacons—Fish-traps—Drying tobacco—Oven for baking earthenware—Chhu-san—Population—Wild duck—White marble—Bees—No wolves—Volcanic country—Wi-wŏn.

Oct. 16, *Bar.* 30.07.—The magistrate was very willing to talk about the prospects of Corea, but, like all his fellows, he expected everything to come from the Government rather than from the people. Naturally enough it must have seemed to him absurd that the poor peasants could improve the position of Corea if they had barely enough food to support their own families, and it probably had never occurred to him that the peasants lacked anything if they had food and clothes such as they wore.

Through all the northern part of Phyŏng-an silk is manufactured, but I was surprised to learn from him that the people were able to make use of pierced cocoons in the manufacture of cotton-silks.

When leaving, he pressed on me some silk and tea. My own tea had all been left behind, and I

had not had a cup since I left Soul, so that, under the circumstances, I broke through my rule regarding presents so far as the tea was concerned, but I could not help wondering why in his own house he had given me hot ginger-water instead of tea as a morning drink, if he had the choice. Tea is a most unusual thing to meet with in Corean houses, but the neighbourhood of Chinese doubtless explained his being possessed of some.

The road east of Chhang-sŏng passed under the beacon hill outside the town. The watchman's cottage and the beacons on the summit drew my attention afterwards to the existence of beacons, in sight of each other, all along the line of the river as on the coast, but I was never able to ascertain whether it is true, as is asserted, that every night throughout the kingdom signals are flashed from hill to hill to assure the king in his palace that no trouble threatens either the coast or frontier from outside foes, and that peace reigns through the provinces.

After walking a few miles we again struck the river. An angler on the bank told pleasant tales of catching fish from seven to eight pounds in weight, and sold me a kind of white trout, fresh from the water, that weighed about two pounds. A little further on was a Chinese boatman winding off silk from cocoons while he talked to some Coreans who were smoking. The

picture remained very vividly in my memory, telling plainly, as it did, why on the one bank of the river well-built houses are springing up and the people are thriving and prosperous; while on the other the people lead at the best but a hand-to-mouth life, and have only mud cabins to live in.

Another piece of beautiful woodland overhanging the river followed soon after. Beneath it the water was extraordinarily clear, and though the current was somewhat disturbed by a rapid, every stone on the river bed could be seen distinctly for 100 yards from the bank. The rapid was due to a bank abutting into the river at a bend, and narrowing the channel, when I saw it, to about seventy yards in width.

Rather a dreary walk of three miles, chiefly through sand left by summer floods, brought us to our halting-place. The men there were chiefly engaged in fishing. Two had rods, and the rest sat smoking around them. The boys of the village displayed a little curiosity, and crowded round us as we sat at our meal, but there was no incivility shown by them.

The narrowness of the valleys so completely shut out the view on either side that it was impossible to gain any idea of the surrounding country, and in the afternoon I left the road to follow the ridge. As on almost all the ridges which I had seen east of Wi-ju,

there was only just sufficient space for one man to walk, owing to the strata being greatly tilted up. On this walk, which is the line naturally followed by wild animals, numberless traps were set. They appeared to be on the principle of a cross-bow, but I did not examine their mechanism closely. So numerous were they on parts of the hills where brushwood was thick that I found my whole attention absorbed in avoiding them.

When clear of the brushwood, I put up a deer, probably a *Pseudaxis mantchurica*, and the first that I had seen; and in the valley below I had a little pheasant shooting before dinner, thanks to the villagers, who took me to what they knew to be likely ground.

Oct. 17, *Bar.* 29.97.—Striking away from the river, the road ascended very gradually a ridge which proved to be 1000 feet high. On the way we saw many fish-traps, made of basket-work, and set with the mouth up stream at places where the water had been artificially penned in.

The tobacco harvest had evidently been gathered in. The leaves were hanging up to dry in sheds about twelve feet high, with a roof not more than two feet wide, on crossbars placed at regular intervals.

A curious building, somewhat resembling a portion of a large aqueduct, had been placed at the foot

of a hillslope. It was about fifty feet long, and was built at a great incline, with a huge mouth at the foot. This was said to be an oven used for baking large earthenware vats or *kongs* for water. In order not to waste any of the heat from the fires, this plan of oven has been adopted.

It seemed somewhat strange to come across three new forms of industry in this part of the country, as it was especially thinly inhabited, and hardly a soul was seen at work. A little further on the road, after striking the Amnok, passed under the foot of the hill on which stands Pyok-dong, a town of 400 houses; but between the town and the valley in which were these signs of labour lies a ridge of over 1000 feet.

All the people of Pyok-dong seemed to have gathered together to look at the strangers; but as we happened to have a long day's journey ahead, we pushed on, without climbing the hill on which the town stands, and crossed another ridge of hills to Ping-fjang, where we severely taxed the resources of the village, which was not accustomed to the arrival of fourteen ponies together. Fortunately a man had been sent on ahead, and all the large cooking pots in the place had been put into requisition to cook the ponies' food, but even then both ponies and men had to be put on short commons.

In the afternoon came another pass, the first of over 1000 feet. Since leaving Wi-ju the hills on all sides had appeared to be of very uniform height, gradually increasing as we advanced further inland, and a jump from 1000 to 1300 feet was quite a remarkable phenomenon. Both men and horses showed signs of fatigue when making the ascent, and before we were far down darkness came on. We had still ten miles to travel, and apparently there was not a house near. The drivers shouted themselves hoarse calling for the torch-bearers, whose presence they had begun to regard as a matter of course, but no reply was heard. Staggering along in the dark over loose stones and rocks was a thing for which they had never bargained, and when, after about three miles of painful travel, a light was seen, they even forbore to swear at the men for their tardiness.

In such a very deserted country the organisation of these torch parties seemed wonderful. Every mile or so fresh bodies of men were waiting with bundles of reeds, and the moment we arrived, off they started, and lit up the road for us until the next relief was reached. As there seemed to be no payment made to them for their work, the moment we reached our inn I gave directions for the last party to be handsomely rewarded; but not a man was to be found, and all I could do was to leave

money with the innkeeper in the hope that it might reach the proper destination.

Oct. 18, *Bar.* 29.82.—Yesterday's march of forty miles proved too much for two of the ponies, and two bulls had to be hired to take their loads. As a rule the ponies were stabled outside, and we saw nothing of them, but here they were standing in sheds surrounding the courtyard. As the ground was muddy, owing to some rain and snow which had fallen, they were not allowed to lie down, but were relieved of a portion of their weight by ropes slung from the rafters overhead and passed underneath their bellies. Like the cattle, their bodies at night were always enveloped in thick straw matting, and there was thus no risk of their being galled or hurt in any way by the ropes.

A ferry-boat took us across a river called the Tu-man Gang, about 100 yards wide, and, after two and a half hours' walk, we reached the head of another valley (*Bar.* 27.78), the view from which was still very much shut in by hills on either side. On the way down the opposite slope, I came across a rich vine bearing quantities of *tarai*, a species of *actinidia*, which grows wild on the hills, and has a luscious green fruit somewhat resembling a gooseberry. A feast of unusual richness seemed within my grasp, when I noticed on the road far below some Japanese, of whom I had heard several times

within the last two days. They were on their way overland from east to west, and as I was anxious to learn something of what they had seen, I had to leave my fruit-tree and hurry down to them. Unfortunately, we had hardly any means of understanding each other, but I was able to gather that they were delighted with what they had seen, and that some grand scenery had been passed near Hui-ju in the north of Ham-kyŏng Do.

In the afternoon we at length got out of the gray stone hills and narrow valleys, the long succession of which had prevented my obtaining any general view of the country round. Day after day the scenery had been almost identical. Hills stripped of their natural covering of wood and undergrowth; valleys piled up with detritus from the hills a few miles along the bank of the Amnok; and one or two strips of beautiful woodland had almost, without exception, composed the day's programme. But to-day, when having my luncheon outside the inn, I noticed flaring patches of red on the cliffs high up. These I at first took to be masses of autumn foliage, but my glasses proved that the innkeeper was right in ascribing them to the rocks.

A few miles farther on, at the mouth of the valley, we found two masses of rock standing across it like battants of a huge gate. The stone was so

hard that time seemed to have had no effect on it save to produce deep clefts in which trees had taken root, and four or five terraces, with vertical walls, bare of any grass or lichen, rose one above another in almost artificial symmetry.

A little distance beyond the valley, widened out and low-rolling hills, with low cover, gave good show of fulfilling the promise which had been held out of abundant deer-shooting. Among them, but on level ground near the banks of a shallow stream, stood Chhu-san, the second town which we had seen since leaving Wi-ju. Here I proposed to rest a day, partly for shooting and partly to allow me more chance of receiving my passport from Wi-ju, and I was consequently delighted to find very comfortable quarters provided for me.

The rooms assigned me were evidently those occupied by the tax-collector, for on the wall were various memoranda connected with his duties, and, among others, one which showed that there were 7262 families resident in the district, of whom 1311 paid their taxes in coin or grain, 3722 in tobacco, and 2229 in charcoal, at least such was the explanation that I gathered of the terms employed. A very respectable employé assured me that as many as 1000 families had in the past ten years emigrated to the Chinese side of the Amnok, which is about five miles from the town, but the neighbourhood bore a

flourishing appearance, and the population was said to be still increasing.

In the evening the magistrate called and inquired most courteously after my comfort. I responded very warmly, and said that I hoped to spend at least a day in Chhu-san, on which his face fell most grievously. He murmured something about having just entertained some Japanese, and looked aghast at the prospect of having to repeat the performance. It was hard to avoid being somewhat nettled at finding oneself so evidently an unwelcome guest, but I said at once that for shooting purposes it would suit me best not to stay in the town, but as near as possible to where shooting was to be had. All that I wanted, therefore, was the assistance of some experienced sportsman to take me to the best ground. Unfortunately I believed him when he said that there was no game, and that in consequence there were no hunters; but two days afterwards I heard that such was not the case.

Later on in the evening he sent round his head man to ask me to stay, if it were convenient for me to do so; but I declined such a lukewarm invitation, and determined to be off without delay, though ponies and men were sadly in need of rest.

Oct. 19, *Bar.* 29.82.—Within 100 yards of the town there got up from the cornfields on either side of the road a perfect cloud of wild duck. Of course

I had no cartridges in my gun, but day had hardly dawned, and I was able to follow them up without much trouble to a field in which they alit. These were the first duck that I had seen, and their numbers therefore were a great surprise.

This delay gave me an opportunity of admiring the beautiful white marble used for the tablets, which stood outside the town in honour of past officials. I had not elsewhere seen anything worth speaking of, but this marble was of the purest white.

On reaching the Amnok we found several Chinese junks laden with salt moored to the bank. The sailors, who seemed glad to hear their language spoken, explained their monopoly of the carrying trade by the poverty of the Coreans, who, they said, could never raise Tls. 30, the cost of one of their junks. These boats are long and narrow, and carry only two men. As the rapids, they said, are too strong for so small a crew, the boats generally travel in fleets of eight or ten, and the crews lend each other a helping hand when necessary.

All the mountains round Chhu-san seemed stocked with bee-hives. Hollow logs of wood with clay covers stuck on rude stands of wood or stone were placed all about the hills, but always singly, and never near the owner's house. The yield of honey seems very small, generally not more than

three to eight cupfuls, which sell at from 30 to 80 cash each. But the number of hives is practically unlimited, and even the wax was said not to fetch more than 100 to 150 cash per catty. Unfortunately the logs of wood used for packing it seem very quickly to spoil the honey, probably in part owing to neither the logs nor the paper which covers them being thoroughly clean.

At mid-day we found very decent quarters in a granary. As taxes are paid in kind, and very frequently on account of bad weather there is a difficulty about sending the grain to central offices, buildings of this kind are erected not unfrequently in the wilder parts of the country for the temporary storage of grain in transit and for the safe keeping of seed-corn. The head of the village is made responsible for the payment in full and for the safe keeping of the grain until it is taken over by some government officer.

The villages were very widely scattered and the population very scanty, but, as in the towns, the pigs were kept under careful control. As a rule, they were tied by a leg to a bar outside the house during the daytime, but many less fortunate were shut up in pens over the foul gutters outside the houses. In spite of such care, however, the pigs are constantly carried off at night by wild animals.

It seems extraordinary that Corea should be free

from wolves, which are common in the north-east of China, and certainly in parts of Manchuria: as far as I could gather, wolves never make their appearance in Corea. On the other hand, tigers and panthers. are constantly making depredations and carrying off pigs and dogs from the villages, occasionally even entering the towns.

In the afternoon we descended through a narrow gorge, too steep for cultivation, to the Amnok. The brooks and streams on the way were full of trout, but the one or two anglers whom we passed had baskets no better stocked than at home. The Amnok at this point (*Bar.* 29.72) was about 500 yards wide, and received the waters of a considerable stream, called the Poung-men Gang, which we followed up a few miles, until we arrived at Wi-wön.

The whole of the country round appeared to be volcanic. Wi-wön itself lies in a great basin like the crater of a volcano, opposite it are cone-shaped hills, and tufa is found in the neighbouring valleys and beds of streams.

Here, as I had hoped, I found Dr. Göttsche, who had come across the mountain ranges which lie between Wi-wön and Phyöng-yang. He spoke very highly of some iron mines which he had seen being worked at Kai-chhön, close to the bank of the Tai-dong River, and he had collected a large number of geological specimens and fossils.

During part of the time he had travelled the same road as a Corean and his servant, who had particularly attracted his attention, as well by the master's bearing as by the respect shown to him by the servant. But, on nearing Wi-wŏn, the attitude of the two towards each other changed, and it proved that the servant was in reality a constable in charge of a prisoner transported to Wi-wŏn.


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CHAPTER XV

Water-mills for hulling rice—Sleds—Bad road—Kang-ge—Female retainers—Sporting official—Ginseng—Exports—Copper mines—Virgin forest—Deep snow—Extreme cold—Cockroaches—Silver mines—Chang-jin—Wooden bridges—Idleness of the people—Valley of the Sam-su River—Gold washings—Hawking.

THE magistrate of Wi-wŏn chanced to have his home next door to the Consulate in Soul, and in consequence of this slight link between us treated me quite as an old friend. Though the town was very small, and his post a poor one, he readily consented to advance me some money, a thing which the Chhu-san magistrate had declared to be impossible on account of the empty condition of the Chhu-san treasury. Fifteen thousand cash, about £4 sterling, were found for me, but not without some difficulty. When this business was settled, the magistrate plied me with questions about Europe, England and her possessions, Russia, Dr. Göttsche, and various other subjects. I do not know whether my interpreter gave his own answers instead of mine, but I heard afterwards from Dr. Göttsche that one impression

left by what I had said was that Germany was a dependency of Great Britain.

At Wi-wŏn I had hoped to find letters awaiting me, but the messenger had not arrived, and the day of his coming was very doubtful. I therefore made a present of all my newspapers and other things —when they came—to Dr. Göttsche. With the papers a box of tea was to be sent, and the loss of this was a real blow, for the tea which the Chhŏng-sŏng magistrate gave me turned out, when opened, to be ginger, which is infused in hot water by Coreans like tea-leaves.

Here too I had to give up all hope of obtaining a passport for travelling in Manchuria. Everything that I heard of the country on the other bank of the river heightened my desire to go there. Stories of game and forests I had learnt by that time to discount, but it was evident that there must be many novelties in a country where even the rivers had not yet been named, and were simply called No. 1, No. 2, and so on, according to their relative remoteness from the sea.

Oct. 20, *Bar.* 29.55.—The magistrate insisted on sending his own man-servant with me to provide as far as possible against the inconveniences of lodging in rough quarters, and I have never been better cared for by any servant before or since. I had never previously imagined that a Corean

could be an intelligent and active servant, but I found that my estimate of the class was falsified at any rate in this case.

The country seemed to grow still poorer as we left Wi-wŏn behind. The population became thinner, and the people more idle. There were no men at work in the fields, though crops were waiting to be carried. One man had condescended so far as to lead the bull which his wife had loaded, but very few people were about at all.

In the morning we crossed a ridge which commanded an extensive view to the north and south over numerous ranges of hills, but still no great mountain hove in sight. Later on we struck the Dong-nai Gang, a river 150 yards wide, which falls into the Amnok five miles lower down. Though this river passes by Kang-ge, towards which we were journeying, we saw little of it until the evening, the road soon turning from it into the hills, to cut off a bend in its course.

Oct. 21, *Bar.* 29.24.—At last the hills began to get somewhat bigger. A long climb in the morning took us at least 500 feet higher (*Bar.* 27.50) than we had been previously. Mills for hulling rice, worked by water-power, were met with at frequent intervals. The principle was the same that I had seen the previous winter in Kang-won Do. A huge log rested on a pivot. To one end was

fastened a wooden hammer weighted with stones, the other was hollowed into a great trough into which the water poured. When the trough was filled, the weight of water forced it down and upset



WATERMILL FOR HULLING RICE.

the contents. Relieved of its weight, back flew the log, and with the recoil the hammer came down upon the grain.

As these mills were left unattended, the birds came to pick up what they could; and it was interesting to watch the intelligent way in which the magpies

and crows waited for the moment when the hammer was lifted to dart in and snatch out something more than the meagre supply of food which was driven outside of the hammer's reach by its excess of energy.

One or two sleds, or trails, were already in use for carrying brushwood. When the snow is on the ground these are the general means of carriage of grain or firewood. The sled consists of two runners supporting a slight framework, on which the load is laid, and converging towards the front, and the one essential in its construction is that the two runners should be as nearly as possible of the same curve.

About noon we crossed by a ferry to the right bank of the Kang-ge River, and then, after a short halt, pushed on by an atrocious road towards Kang-ge. Almost the whole distance (forty *li*) was on slippery rocks bordering the river. I would not have ridden it on any account, but my Chinese cook, though his seat on horseback seemed to get worse every day, stuck to his beast throughout. Rain came on heavily, and was followed by darkness. For some time I kept with the ponies, one or two of which slipped into the river with their loads and had to be hauled out again, but at last I could stand the misery of the business no longer, and pushed on to Kang-ge (*Bar.* 28.85), whence I sent out a relief party with lanterns.

Drivers and servants arrived in a wretched plight. The drivers, I learnt, had been in tears for some time, and the Chinese demanded some slight rest before they would set about unpacking or getting my dinner ready; but eventually everything got into order, and the only evil result of the day was that some Corean took advantage of my things being carelessly unpacked to walk off with a leathern strap. This strap and a soap-dish were the only things stolen on the whole journey.

My pocket compass seemed to have been seriously affected by something for which I could not account, and the needle which should have pointed north pointed south. In various ways I endeavoured to set matters right, and of course in my note-book I jotted down the bearings as they should be, and not as given by the compass. But on arriving at Kang-ge my theory broke down, and I had to confess that some sudden bend had been made in the hills of which I had not taken note, and that the compass was right and I wrong. The discovery was very humiliating, and rendered quite valueless an explanation, which had been given me by Kim, of the reasons why the houses in this neighbourhood faced north instead of south.

Oct. 22, *Bar.* 28.78.—Steady rain all through the morning prevented all possibility of my going out shooting. The magistrate of the place had

promised to get me up a big drive, and to go with me himself, and even when I stipulated that he must go without any attendants and without his pipe, had consented to all my conditions; but the rain knocked everything on the head, and I was able to take a day's rest without any feeling of self-reproach.

The magistrate had paid me a long visit soon after my arrival, and waited but a short time, after I returned his call the next morning, to come again. His desire for knowledge was perfectly insatiable. Whitaker's *Almanac* by that time was at my fingers' ends, and I could answer pretty accurately any questions as to statistics regarding the armies, trade, and population of any country on the face of the globe, but at Kang-ge I felt the want of an enlarged edition. I began at last to feel some sympathy for the many officials whom I had pestered with questions during the whole time that I had seen them, and who, for want of a Corean Whitaker, had failed to take honours in their examination.

He seemed to feel a genuine interest in the people in his jurisdiction, and complained of the great want which Corea suffered in the absence of any native beverage. Tea was too expensive, congee water did not satisfy thirst, and spirits led to blows and crimes. To supply the want he had

invented a tea prepared from the dried leaves of a kind of hawthorn, of which he asked my opinion. This tea possessed a not unpleasant flavour and was presumably harmless, but it was too insipid to attract any general favour or to drive spirits out of fashion.

In talking of various possible improvements in the condition of the people, I referred to the miserable size of their pigs, and suggested that he should get some English hogs, with a view to improving the breed. When I told him of the weight to which pigs run in England, he was perfectly astounded, for a Corean pig is about the same size as a spaniel, and the difference due to care in breeding seemed to him incredible. But he jumped at the idea of endeavouring to improve the Corean pig, and asked me, if possible, to help him to procure some foreign stock.

A striking novelty at Kang-ge consisted in the presence of women among the magistrate's retinue. When I returned his call, I found that he had but comparatively few men in attendance upon him, and none of the boys who generally swarm about a Corean *yamên*, but half a dozen women with unveiled faces were among his retainers. To my great astonishment he asked my opinion of their beauty, and the girls seemed as anxious for my verdict as the magistrate himself. Fortunately, it

was easy to speak favourably of their looks, for they were tall, well-shapen, held themselves well, and had oval faces unpitted by smallpox. Of Corean women they certainly were the best specimens I have seen, and I was at the time quite unable to account for their presence in such an out-of-the-way place, but it is possible that they were women of good family whose relations had lost their lives in some political trouble, and who in consequence had been banished to this distant region.

On my asking what sport was to be had in the neighbourhood, the magistrate volunteered to go with me. I asked what he would do about boots, as his were not fit for hill-walking. He laughed, however, at any difficulty on that score, and said he was willing to walk any distance to see me shoot. He also consented to leave his servants at home, and to be independent of sedan-chairs, but the rain prevented his putting his intentions into effect, somewhat to my relief.

The town, which was said to contain 1000 houses, stood on a bluff in the angle formed by the junction of two rivers. There was no street in it of any importance, but the shops and stalls showed more signs of trade than usual. Gensan, on the east coast, was the port from which it drew its foreign supplies, such as lawns and shirtings, but salt came overland from Wi-ju, and

crockery from China came partly by water and partly by land. Flints from the Ham-kyŏng province, stone bowls for lamp-oil from Sŏng-chhŏn in Phyŏng-an, iron from Tan-chhŏn on the east coast, seaweed and fish from Gensan, and many other odds and ends from different places, proved that the district had some products of its own to give in exchange. These consisted of cotton and hempen cloths, deer-horns (for medicine), ginseng, and copper.

It was said that the mountains between Chhu-san and Kang-ge are the best in Corea for wild ginseng, and the rewards given for the discovery of the root attract many men in the late summer months to spend the whole of their time in searching for it. But the magical properties which the herb is reported to possess prevent its discovery except by those who lead a pure life, and the market has consequently never yet been overstocked.

Mr. Foulk, whose knowledge of Corea is equally thorough and accurate, in a report published by the United States Government, writes: "This (the wild) kind of ginseng is sold by the single root, the price of which is said to have reached in the past nearly $2000 for an extraordinarily fine specimen."

The Kang-ge copper, which is well known by name throughout the northern half of Corea, turned

out not to be produced in the Kang-ge district, but at a place called Jin-mok-mien, which was formerly included in Kang-ge, but now lies in the Hu-ju district. The mines there were said to be 350 feet deep and to employ several hundred men. In the town of Kang-ge there were two or three coppersmiths' shops, where eating and other bowls were made, and beautifully polished by lathes.

I had again to ask for a loan of money, and was, through the magistrate's aid, able to procure 15,000 cash, which he said were collected in advance as part of the next year's taxes.

Owing to heavy rain which came on in the afternoon, Dr. Göttsche, who I had hoped would overtake me at Kang-ge, was unable to push on so far, and I thus lost the chance of meeting him again.

Oct. 23, *Bar.* 28.73.—In the night I missed Sam, and feared for a time that he had been stolen, but, after a long search, I learnt that the ladies of the place had bribed Kim to show them this monster of the dog family, and that he had been taken to their quarters.

As usual, after a day's rest, the difficulties of a start were increased, but in spite of all the turmoil and hubbub of getting ponies and men together from different parts of the town, we were off at 7.40 A.M. The halt had evidently done much good to two of the drivers, who were quite worn out

when they reached Kang-ge. As we had done 710 *li* (235 miles) in eight days, they had some right to cry out. So long as the day's journey did not exceed 100 *li*, they seemed perfectly able to stand the work, but an extra twenty *li* increased their fatigue most surprisingly. Still, after leaving Kang-gë, neither Coreans nor ponies broke down, except now and again when a man would lie down on the road and wait there until the agonies of an excessive dinner off turnips had passed away. These attacks were of frequent occurrence, and excited no sympathy from the man's fellows, who left their friend behind in what looked like mortal pain, feeling confident that he would rejoin them before the next morning's start.

The day was too thick for much of the surrounding country to be seen even at the start, and after a time rain came on, and then snow. A general depression reigned over all, and it was impossible to induce the men to hurry on. Rain means to Coreans a drenching in cotton clothing which will have to be dried by the heat of the body. Add to that prospect the certainty of a spoilt hat, and 'tis easy to account for the gloom of a man caught in a storm unprovided with rain-clothes. Men who had any official status would do anything sooner than continue in such a condition. The first thing was to procure a hat covering by money, by force, or by fraud. With that secured, they would essay to raise

a mat, a sheet of oil-paper, or anything that would keep off the rain from their bodies, no matter how they looked, but their foot-gear was beyond all remedy. The wrappings of cotton clothing round the feet soon became a pulpy mass of mud devoid of shape and comfort.

It was no small relief to get to our mid-day resting-place, a small collection of cottages about thirteen miles out of Kang-ge. The owner of the largest bustled about to make us comfortable, and then sat down patiently to submit to my questions. His yearly taxes amounted, he said, to about 1000 cash (roughly, 3s. 6d.), part of which was paid in commutation of the grain tax on his little patch of ground, and the rest (4 cash) formed his house-tax. The standard of capacity by which the grain tax was calculated was the bowl in which rice is always served, twenty-five of which went to the bushel. The size of the rice bowl never varies, and men dining at inns are charged per bowl, even if they touch but a portion.

In the afternoon the weather cleared, and we continued steadily to ascend the whole time, but the glass rose so much with a north wind that at the end of the day it stood at 27.47.

The path for the last ten miles wound by the banks of streams through wooded valleys almost uninhabited. The glens were too confined to

allow of any notion being formed of the country on which we were entering; but after struggling for hours through snow that had thawed and then frozen, we at last found ourselves right among the mountains. The woods which fringed the river's bank extended up the mountain-side several hundred feet, and before us lay a piece of virgin forest buried deep in snow.

Our halting-place lay just below the belt of forest, and it was with some difficulty that accommodation was found for all our party in the three or four farmhouses which composed the whole village. At first the farm people expressed some reluctance to take us in, but it was so evident that there was nothing else to be done, that when they gave way they did so with a good grace.

Oct. 24, *Bar.* 27.84.—The glass had risen a third of an inch in the night, and the weather seemed fair and settled, but even without any wind the morning was intensely cold.

On the outskirts of the forest a good deal of timber had been felled, and many stumps, thirty feet high, of trees, off which the bark had been stripped, were left to season where they stood. The snow, which was knee-deep and still untrodden, made travelling a slow business, and frequently we had to clear away bushes and trees that impeded the path. A few hundred feet up, and we were clear of the wood-

man; but at first it was hard to realise that the hundreds of trees which had fallen this way and that, and made the forest almost impenetrable, owed their fall to nature. It seemed marvellous, too, that such big trees should have done such little damage to their neighbours when they fell. The biggest of the trees were *zelkowas*, which not only overtopped all rivals, but had stems fit for the pillars of Yunglo's hall at the Ming tombs. Birch, poplars, and firs were the commoner trees, and there were a large number of mountain ash perfectly crimson with berries. Near the banks of the streams scores of saplings had been felled to serve as bridges for the martens, and every bridge had its snare suspended over it; but all the snares were empty, and there were no footprints in the snow, either of man, beast, or squirrel.

Large flights of thrushes were making their way north-east, in spite of the mountain barrier in their way and other reasons which seemed sufficiently apparent; but, with the exception of these birds, there was no sign of life anywhere.

The ascent was very rapid, and after rising about 2000 feet, we found ourselves clear of all other trees but pines. The immense load of snow which they bore had forced their branches almost to their sides, and in this position each tree stood clear of its fellow. Their slight stems at first entirely misled

me as to their height; but when I tried to get some cones, I found that even when they bent down, the branches were not within thirty feet of the ground. I shot off some of the cones to send them to Kew, where they were determined to be the fruit of the *abies microsperma*. The whole belt of wood near the summit was entirely composed of these firs, and the ground beneath them seemed almost free of brushwood.

After a climb of four hours and twenty minutes, we reached the top (*Bar.* 24.80). The view was much cramped by trees and by shoulders of the mountain on either side, but some fine peaks were visible to the west and south. The cold was too intense to make a long halt, and we soon hurried down the opposite face of the mountain by a path which crossed and recrossed a frozen stream. The only bridges consisted of the stem of a fir-tree thrown across, and as the width of the stream increased these bridges became more and more formidable. The drivers and servants stuck to the ponies, and crossed the stream on their backs, and I began to wish that I had followed their example. The depth of snow on the trunk of the trees increased the difficulty of seeing where to set one's foot on the bridges; and at last I made a false step and fell backwards into what proved to be a snowdrift, so deep as entirely to break my fall. It was some

little time before I could find my rifle, but when found, it bore no scratch or dent, but was stuffed up to the breech with snow.

About 1000 feet down, a single house standing in a small clearing attracted all the Coreans to it in hope of food, but nothing for either man or beast was to be had. The cold became intense, and drove me on ahead of the ponies through the woods of pine, poplar, and birch into an open valley in which were a few huts. The people, however, were too miserably poor to encourage my staying with them, and I pushed on until near dark, when I asked for leave to wait in a hut until the ponies came up. Another mile brought us to the village (*Bar.* 26.42), where we were to spend the night; but the cold and fatigue had so told upon my servants that they had to rest some time before they could set about getting my dinner ready or unpacking my things. Indeed, so great had been the cold, that not a single Corean had been seen by us out of doors.

Oct. 25, *Bar.* 26.58.—Cockroaches swarmed in my night's lodging. I turned them out of my portmanteau by the pint. My boots and everything that would hold one cockroach at ordinary places held a dozen here. Luckily the roof was low, and when they fell from the ceiling on to my bed their bodies had gathered no great momentum. Otherwise I should have been bruised all over.

The country looked so very favourable for deer that, regardless of cockroaches, I was anxious to spend a day in this village for the purpose of shooting. But I found it impossible to get any hunter to come with me. There was only one in the village, and he was crippled with wounds. In the summer he had been out with a friend after a bear, which they wounded and followed up. The bear had then turned upon them and killed one, while the other, in an attempt to save his friend's life, had nearly lost his own.

The cold had considerably diminished, but the river was frozen in many parts, and sledges drawn by bulls were in common use for carrying oats from the fields to the homesteads, the oat harvest being in full swing.

Ten *li* lower down the stream we came to the silver mines of O-man-dong, better known as the Chang-jin mines, from the district in which they lie. Some disused furnaces stood near the road, and the ruins of two or three score of huts showed that there had been a considerable number of men employed on them, but at the time there were no men at work. On going to the pit's mouth, I found that the shaft was lined with timber, and lower down a gallery similarly lined had been driven into the side of the hill to connect with the shaft. The gallery was about four feet six inches high by four feet wide.

Two or three minor shafts had been sunk at different points, but only one was of great depth.

As nothing was to be learnt on the spot, we went on towards Chang-jin (*Bar.* 26.77), and a little distance outside the town were met by the magistrate's band, consisting of pipes and wooden trumpets, which escorted us to his residence. The town was but a very little place, containing only 150 houses, and showing no signs of trade. The entire population seemed to have collected in the courtyard.

After a little time a man in the crowd came forward and asked for my advice. He was, he said, the owner of the mine which I had seen that morning, and at one time had done very well, having 300 men employed on the works. But he had come across a piece of hard rock, on which their tools had no effect. He had tried gunpowder, but to no purpose, and had driven in a gallery at right angles to the shaft, but had failed to strike the vein. The shaft was nearly 400 feet deep, and all his capital had been sunk in the undertaking. In all he had spent 100,000 cash, about $1300, on the concern. What did I advise?

I told him that Dr. Göttsche would be there in a few days' time, and he might be able to give some good advice. The best advice I could give was to consult Dr. Göttsche.

The mine-owner seemed well satisfied, and drew back into the crowd. Some half dozen men then came forward, and most eagerly asked for advice. They were poor, they said, very poor. How could they better themselves?

There was no doubt about the truth of the statement. Nowhere else in Corea had I seen such universal symptoms of poverty, and the anxious expression on the faces of the crowd, as they awaited my answer, confirmed the story. As they depended almost entirely upon oats and potatoes for their food, I told them to keep the best of the crops for seed, and to exchange seed with neighbouring villages, rather than use their own seed always on their own farms. The potatoes, I learnt, gave only three small tubers to a root, and the oats were very thin.

The magistrate, who came to call on me, was an exception to the general rule of all officials being natives of Soul. His home was in Kyöng-sang Do, a province whose fertility made the poverty of the people in this district all the more striking. He seemed to take an interest in the people, and promised to distribute among them some good seed if I could send him some. To a question whether any Japanese had ever visited Chang-jin, he replied that not only had no European or Japanese ever been there, but not even a Chinaman had ever set

foot there before. His residence had recently been burnt down, and he apologised for the poor quarters which he had given me.

On leaving Chang-jin we crossed the river just above its junction with the main portion of the Sam-su River. As the relative positions of Hu-ju and Chang-jin are wrongly marked in most maps, and these two places form the key to the two routes from Kang-ge east, it may be well to mention that Chang-jin is 440 *li* south of Sam-su, 270 south of Hu-ju (also called Hui-chhön), 190 east-south-east of Kang-ge, 340 south-west of Kapsan, and 340 north of Ham-heung.

Turning up the valley of this river, which had an average width of 120 yards, we continued steadily on until after nightfall. Little of the surrounding country was seen, and of the larger mountains not even a glimpse was caught, rising ground on either bank of the stream shutting in the view most completely. Mills for hulling oats, of the same pattern as those used elsewhere for hulling rice, were built by the water-side, and driven by water-power supplied by ducts connecting with higher parts of the river.

The wooden bridges passed during the day were supported by piles, which, instead of being perpendicular, were driven in at an angle, those in the higher part of the stream sloping in the same direc-

tion as that of the current, and the lower piles being slightly inclined to meet them.

Our night's quarters were most unusually spacious. The building was entirely constructed of logs cemented by mud; the rooms were high and ceiled; the courtyard was surrounded by a strong fence; and the accommodation was amply sufficient for the whole of our party as well as the landlord's family. With all these advantages, not forgetting sheds for ponies, it had been bought for about $18.

Oct. 26, *Bar.* 26.94.—The glass had risen 0.38 during the night, but the day commenced with a thaw which soon gave way to an intense frost. Snow, as on the previous day, lay about four inches thick, and the river in parts was choked with blocks of ice.

The men suffered terribly from the cold, though there was no wind, and were exceedingly glad to get under cover at mid-day. In the inn, where they had their meal, the arrangements seemed exclusively calculated for cold weather. In the front part of the room the women of the house prepared the men's meal of oats, cooked whole like rice. Immense quantities of hot and cold water were required for the washing and cooking of the oats, and large caldrons filled with boiling water were kept in readiness for the purpose. The hot air from the

fires passed underneath an earthen floor raised about five feet from the ground, and on this staging the men had their dinners. About twenty-five of them, each with his separate table, were gathered



KITCHEN IN INN IN THE NORTH.

in this place. The comfort of their meal, and the attractive manner in which it was served, impressed me strongly, accustomed as one is in China to seeing men of the same class eat their meals while standing in the street or at the door of their

houses, without any notion of either comfort or sociability.

In the afternoon the weather grew milder, and the scenery somewhat changed. As we advanced higher up the river its current grew less, and the plain on either side of it increased in width, but still without disclosing any of the mountains which hem in this plateau. Hemp was standing still uncut, and oats were lying in the snow.

On reaching the little village, the fourth seen during the day, where we stopped the night, I asked why the hemp and oats were not carried. The only answer I could get was that the snow had fallen earlier than usual, before even the potatoes and cabbages had been got in. With snow on the ground, all notion of work seemed to have vanished. About April or May the men would get to work again, but until then they would do nothing except cut some firewood if necessary, or beat the road hard by which couriers had to travel.

The people complained sorely of the unfitness of their clothing for such a climate. The only tight-fitting part consists of wadded cuffs reaching from the wrist to the elbow. The body is very badly protected. The jacket hangs loose over the waist, is open round the throat, and only fastened by strings and buttons, the Chinese substitute of loops and knots being unknown. When a cold wind

catches men in the winter out on the mountains, it frequently means death to them, especially if they are past middle age; but in spite of this the prejudice against tanners and the use of skins for dress prevents the people from adopting a more sensible garb, for which the material is ready at hand.

Our landlord's family had been living in this place for five generations, but most of the people in this neighbourhood were immigrants of recent date, and their prejudices seemed to compose almost the whole of the capital which they had brought with them. They complained greatly of the failure of the harvest, which meant a famine later on; but, with this prospect before them, no man stirred out of his house to carry even that portion of his crops which had been cut. A description of the shape and uses of snow-shoes seemed only to impress the men with the horror of a state of things in which work could be done in spite of snow being on the ground. With such listlessness and lack of energy, it was hard to understand what motive-power had been strong enough to drive them from their native places to this wild region.

Oct. 27, *Bar.* 26.68. — Our road during the morning continued almost due south, following the course of the river upwards. Nearly a foot of snow

was on the ground, and the glare from it, which had continued for four days without intermission, grew very painful to the eyes.

At mid-day, for the first time after entering the valley of the Sam-su River, we caught a view of the mountain range which we had crossed on the 24th. The plain of the valley was about two miles wide, and studded with numerous log-houses of a substantial appearance. To the west lay low-rolling hills, gradually rising towards the mountains in the distance, and to the south-east were several fine peaks towering 2000 to 3000 feet above us. The river, which was free from ice, had hardly any current, and occasionally divided into branches, surrounding meadow lands.

For the past three days my aneroid had played astounding tricks. For instance, on the 26th, during which we were all day steadily ascending, at 7.30 A.M. it stood at 26.94; at noon at 26.49; at 2 P.M. at 26.64; at 4 P.M. at 26.47; and at 5 P.M. at 26.55. The weather all the time had remained much the same, generally cloudy, and without much wind; but between the time when we struck the Sam-su River on the 25th, and the time on the 28th, when two or three mountain streams disputed between them the claim to be the river's source, the aneroid had only fallen from 26.77 to 26.52, after three and a half days' steady ascent.

Two or three gold washings lay in streams at no great distance from the main river. The magistrate at Chang-jin was said to have applied to Soul for permission to work one of them, in order that by leasing it out, he might obtain sufficient funds to rebuild his official residence. As was invariably the case where mines were not being worked, these gold washings were said to be very rich. On the other hand, a galena mine, which was being worked by a party of thirty men, was said to turn out barely sufficient silver to pay for their food.

Several men were out hawking for pheasants. The hawks were carried hooded on the wrist, and were of two kinds. The one a peregrine falcon, the other a gray bird, of about the same size as the falcon, with white stripes down the head, white under the wings, which were tipped with black.

Just before nightfall we reached our destination, a dirty little village situated in the mountains. The sight of a fresh bull's hide made me hope for some dog's meat being obtainable, but it proved that the beast had been killed for the festival on the 3d of October, and nothing remained but the hide.

CHAPTER XVI

Descent from plateau—Village elders—Famine threatened—Turnip harvest—Ham-heung bridge—Unpleasant reception—Wild geese—Homesick Chinese—Funeral procession—Port limits of Gensan—Duck-shooting—Gensan.

Oct. 28, *Bar.* 26.52.—We very soon struck into beautiful firwoods festooned with lichens, which hung in streamers almost sweeping the ground. A very easy ascent through these woods brought us to the crest of the range (*Bar.* 26.10), and a little further on, after descending a few hundred feet through woods of small oak, we came to a narrow gateway in a stone wall, marking the territorial division between Chang-jin and Ham-heung. Some bulls were being unloaded in order to be able to pass through the gateway, and after a short delay, caused by their blocking up the path, we had a clear view of the line of precipices forming the eastern face of the range, which we had ascended almost unconsciously. Everything, including the boulders lying in the beds of the torrents, told of the different conditions obtaining on the opposite sides of the

range, and the short walk through the oakwood seemed to have introduced us to an entirely new country.

The descent from this point was very rapid, and soon carried us out of the snow. A little hamlet lay at the base, the houses in which were roofed with birch bark heavily weighted with stones.

One of the villagers told me that the whole land tax, shared by the fifteen houses of the place, amounted to 8000 cash, and in addition there was a house tax of 3 cash per house.

In the afternoon we crossed another ridge of 500 feet high, and from its crest had a fine view of the sea and the plain stretching between us and it, Ham-heung, and of the peaks behind us, as well as of the wall of rock which hemmed in the plain. When half-way down the further slope, we met three old men, who said they were the elders of the village at which we proposed to stop, and that they had come to bid us welcome. After talking to them some little time, I asked if they could show me where any pheasants were to be found. They at once laid hands upon a young fellow who was passing by, and told him what was wanted. Without further ado he took me up the mountain-side from one potato patch to another, and found in an hour's time more pheasants than I had seen in the past fortnight.

My quarters for the night were very comfortable

for a Corean cottage,—that is to say, the rooms were ceiled and cleanly papered, fresh mats were on the floor, and there was sufficient room to stow my belongings under cover. In the evening the old men came to talk with me. They would not sit down for fear of being disrespectful, but they were quite willing to smoke my tobacco while they chatted.

From what they said there appears to be a considerable amount of self-government in the villages. Of village elders there are three classes—the *tson-eu* and *tjoa-shang*, who are chosen by the villagers, and the *sa-im*, who are appointed by the magistrate of the district. The *tson-eu* settle, as far as possible, all minor disputes among the villagers, and keep accounts of the land tax due from every house. They also determine the quota to be subscribed by each house towards paying the expenses of tablets erected in honour of officials. The *tjoa-shang* look to the repairs of bridges and roads, and report deaths and births to the *sa-im*. The *sa-im* keep the register of the population in a book called the *sêng-tchaik*, one copy of which is deposited with the magistrate.

One room in the house in which we stayed was used as a schoolroom. The arrangement in this village, they said, was that each pupil paid 50 cash a month, and in addition to this the pupils paid for their master's clothes and food, for the mats on

the floor, and the papering of the walls and windows. Paper, ink, and books were also supplied by them. As to results, about ten per cent of the inhabitants could write Chinese, which as usual was regarded as the only written language that needed learning, Corean being acquired without any trouble.

The people were very poor and looked forward with trembling to the winter, as the harvest had been extremely short. Many of the families had already consumed almost all the rice they had to last them through the winter, and in despair were preparing to emigrate to the plateau of the Sam-su River, where they said a few cash went a long way.

Oct. 29, *Bar.* 29.54.—Turning our backs on the mountains, we followed the bed of a stream, which was thickly cumbered with boulders, towards the east. A number of people were out in the fields getting in the turnip crop. The roots were carried away in carts. No harness was used, but the shafts were attached to a bar resting on the cow's neck. The pattern of cart changed as we drew nearer Ham-heung, but in those used on the stonier ground the wheels and sides of the cart were deeply concave and the axles projected about twenty inches outside the nave, evidently with a view to preventing the carts from turning right over when upset.

Signs of much damage having been done by the summer floods were frequent. The beds of the streams were but little below the level of the fields, and after heavy rains the mountain torrents quickly swell these streams above their banks. Large portions of the plain were strewn with sand and stones in such quantities as to render cultivation useless.

A few miles after our start we met some men who had been sent by the Governor of Ham-heung to meet me. He had also sent by them some dishes, which they had prepared in an inn, together with very kindly messages, to which I responded as best I could.

Nearer Ham-heung the plain had been very carefully protected by dykes from inundations. The turnip harvest was being got in at the time, and the country was alive with people at work piling the roots on the ground, or carting them away.

I had been told that outside the city was a bridge five *li* (one and a half miles) long, and for some time I kept a keen look-out for this grand work, while wondering for what purpose it could have been required. When close to the city we turned a corner of the embankment, which had hidden the bridge from sight, and found it at our feet, but instead of being a mile and a half long it was only 400 yards in length. The piles of the bridge had been carried away by the floods, and men were hard

at work replacing them, and ponies and carts had to ford the river, which was little more than knee-deep.

The bridge came close to the city wall, and coming through the gate was such a throng of carts as I had never seen in Corea. We had to stand by for some time to let them pass, and while waiting, the servants who had come to meet us went on ahead. The pony men had become so accustomed to my being put up in official quarters that I had to warn them not to take such hospitality as a matter of course, but on entering the city a man came forward to show us the way. The place to which we were shown was being hastily cleared of every mat and screen that made it decent. All the filth that such removals disclose was left on the floor. Swarms of people crowded into the courtyard, and not a soul was there to receive us. I told the men therefore not to unpack, and set out to look for an inn. After a time a young fellow strutted in, followed by a servant, and sat down on the one chair which generally stands in the main hall of official buildings. After I had waited some time for the return of my messenger, this man came forward and said that he was a clerk in the Foreign Office at Soul, and a son of the *p'an-kuan*, who had sent him to welcome me. I asked him not to put himself out, and inquired if he knew of an inn, as my servants had brought

me to this place by mistake. He begged me to stay where I was, and pointed to one of the rooms as specially prepared for me, on which I asked him to sit down on the floor and have a good talk. He could not decline to sit down, but after a minute or two he said he would send for some mats. I assured him that there was no occasion, and again asked at what inn I could put up. On this he became very nervous and begged me to stay, as his father was anxious to make me comfortable, and he then had the courtyard cleared of the crowd, and sent for some mats and screens.

The luncheon prepared for me on the road, the men sent to meet me, and the messages they bore, all proved that the Governor was disposed to be friendly, and I had no doubt that all the incivility was due to his son, so I agreed to stay where I was rather than offend the Governor. As to the son, when once he was able to get up from the filthy floor he fled, and I saw him no more.

The rooms given me were evidently those occupied by the officer in charge of the collection of the taxes. Various memoranda were pasted on the walls, and, among others, one which gave the taxation of the whole province. As far as I could gather from these, part of the taxes were affected to the use of the Governor, part to his lieutenant, and part to the metropolitan exchequer. Of the taxes,

some were paid in kind, others in cash, and the proportions were as follows :—

For the Governor	. .	39,345	piculs of rice
„ Lieutenant	. .	7,205	„ „
„ Metropolis	. .	8,742	„ „

In addition to this tax on grain was one on cloth, probably hempen cloth, which, commuted in cash, amounted to 1,591,645 cash (cash being about 600 to the dollar). The collector's own salary was given as 390,200 cash (=$650).

In the evening I received a visit from the *p'an-kuan*, a gentleman of very pleasant manners. He volunteered apologies for the dirty condition of the rooms, on the ground that I had arrived some days earlier than I was expected, and that therefore the rooms had not been got ready. After a little general conversation, I asked him to advance me some money on the strength of the letter which I held from the Foreign Office; and to this he agreed, promising that the money should be ready early the next morning.

Oct. 30, *Bar.* 30.04.—I waited a long time for the cash, and sent a messenger to inquire about it, but at length was forced to start the ponies on their way without it. When they had left, I tried to see something of the town. Though the capital of the province, and said to contain 3000 houses, there was little in it to denote its importance except the great

bell, which all towns of its rank possess. In this case the bell was in a little tower built on the wall.

There were, however, several signs of comfort, such as were not to be seen in the north. Even the women wore an ornament in the shape of a bright-coloured ribbon in their hair; and for the men there were fur cuffs for the forearm, fur ear-caps, and similar luxuries.

A good deal of iron from Tan-chhön was for sale, but the local manufacture of celebrity was said to be hempen cloth, which looked very fine. My curiosity was excited by the sight of some short cylinders made of black earth, which were exposed for sale on every stall. These, I learnt, were made of graphite, and were used as sockets for the axle-pins of carts, thus doing away with any occasion for lubricating oil.

While inspecting the shops and stalls, a messenger came to tell me that the cash were ready for me to take away. My ponies had then been gone an hour, and I had no means of taking the cash; but the messenger undertook to do anything so long as he had not to face his master's displeasure by taking the money back with him, and through his help a pony was procured to convey the cash to the mid-day halting-place.

After crossing the bridge, the length of which I stepped to be only 400 paces, we entered an exten-

sive plain, off which a bean crop had been gathered. Numbers of people were on their way to the city; but, almost regardless of their presence, thousands of wild geese were feeding, even within gunshot from the road. Most unfortunately I had sent my guns on by the ponies, and in consequence had not a shot at them.

About ten miles from Ham-heung we came to a little ridge perhaps 100 feet high. At its foot the cart-road ceased, no man having taken the trouble to surmount this slight obstacle to communication between two plains.

At Chhŏng-phyŏng I met with great civility from the official, who had seen one or two Europeans from Gensan, and entertained very pleasant memories of them. Over his chair, in place of a leopard's skin, he carried a red blanket, a present from one of his visitors, and he possessed two or three European trifles which he prized highly.

Some gold washings exist near the town, but they had not been worked for some time and were spoken of depreciatingly. Between the sea on the east, which was visible at times, and the line of mountains which form a steep wall facing the sea, were several low lines of hill, which were almost universally of disintegrated granite, and in many of the valleys there had been workings on a small scale, but which afterwards had been abandoned.

In the afternoon the road was very pretty, the hills growing conical, and being studded with what were said to be temples. After dusk for an hour and a half we walked through the home of geese and ducks. They must have been present in millions, judging from the sound of their wings and their voices, but the darkness was too great for shooting.

Our quarters for the night were rough in the extreme, but my cook as usual served me up a very comfortable dinner, after which I noticed that instead of getting his own dinner he sat down on a log in the street. I asked him what was the matter, and he replied that he was dying of home-sickness; for three days he had eaten nothing; and the other Chinaman gave him no sympathy. I tried to induce him to pluck up courage, but he broke down altogether and disappeared in the darkness to hide his tears. The poor old fellow was a man of about fifty-five, and a bit of a cripple. He was certainly not a good horseman, but he never left his pony's back, except when he had to get out his traps for cooking, when he did his work right well. Partly owing to his peculiarities, he had served as the staple subject for jesting even among the Coreans, and for this cause his case seemed now the sadder.

Oct. 31, *Bar.* 29.75.—After what he had said, my cook plainly considered himself bound to continue fasting, and not a thing would he touch. I was very

anxious about him, as his strength was almost gone, but there was nothing to be done except push on, so on we went.

Near the top of some low hills which we crossed was an outcrop of the graphite used at Ham-heung for cart-wheels. But very little of it had been removed, from which I conjectured that there must be other sources of supply in the neighbourhood.

Further on we came to the bed of a stream which had been panned over and over again for gold. As I afterwards learnt, it is the great field from which is drawn the gold for which Yŏng-heung is famed, and which is exported from Gensan to Japan. The washings extended almost up to the hill's crest, and as they descended lower down the stream, its bed had been tossed this way and that until valley and stream had grown into a confused mass of screenings and loose stone, under which the water found its way unseen.

Near the town of Yŏng-heung are two rivers, spanned by wooden bridges. On one of these we met a funeral procession. About a score of men carried the coffin, which was clumsily bound on poles, and on one of the poles in front of the coffin stood the leader of the gang singing at the top of his voice a chant, to the measure of which the bearers walked in time.

Funerals are generally conducted so very quietly

in Corea that only once before had I seen this fashion of carrying the coffin. On that occasion a coffin was being removed from an old grave in the foreign settlement in Chemulpo, and there the men joined with their leader in a chorus which must have been heard for a mile round. In most cases that I have seen, the coffin was carried by a couple of men, without any train of mourners, to the grave and there buried.

Yŏng-heung had been spoken of to me as rather an important centre of the silk trade, but there was no silk for sale in the town. I learnt, however, that the women in the neighbouring villages are in the habit of making silk in their own houses, but only produce small quantities, such as two or three pieces to a house. When I was there the women were all out in the fields getting in the turnips, while the men, as usual, looked on or smoked.

From Yŏng-heung the road continued through magnificent duck grounds. I was obliged to hurry on on account of my cook; but even without leaving the road any distance, I had some very pretty shooting. The pony men were quite as keen about the shooting as I was, and every excursion into the fields entailed a halt of the whole caravan until they had seen the shot fired, after which they would push on at good speed while eagerly criticising the performance.

Nov. 1, *Bar.* 29.95.—Rain in rice-fields is never very enjoyable; but it was worse than ever here, for sodden heaps of cut rice were lying on the banks waiting for the sun to dry them, and the whole country reeked of rotten straw. One or two men, who braved the elements so far as to set up a few fallen shocks of rice, looked in their straw coats even more sodden than the fields; but there were very few men to be seen anywhere.

A few miles out we came across the first signs of Gensan. Two posts erected by the roadside bore an inscription, stating that foreigners were not allowed to pass beyond that spot. The inscription was, however, already out of date, for the freedom of foreigners' movements had been doubled by the Treaty of 1883; and 100 *li* instead of fifty *li* was then the distance from a treaty port, within which foreigners could move about freely even without a passport.

The rain grew steadier as the day grew older, and after lunch I left the ponies and started off across country to Gensan. The natural result followed, that after about two hours' walking I was brought to a dead standstill by a river. After a time I discovered a man who carried me across, and then only a belt of sand and some fir-trees lay between me and the sea.

There seemed to be something unnatural about

the sea, which I did not understand at first. Afterwards I recognised that sound and tide form part to an Englishman's mind of the characteristics of the sea. Here the rise and fall of the tide was only a few inches, and the result was that there was no beach and no ceaseless murmur of the sea. The only sound was that of a lapping of water on the sand, so gentle as to be almost unheard.

Still there was no sign of Gensan, until on rounding a little hill I found myself in the town. Surely if any town has a right to call itself spick and span, that town is Gensan. Japanese houses of a substantial class, wide streets, a stream flowing through the town, the sea in front of it, and a comparison with Corean towns, made the place to me look clean beyond compare. To lodge in such houses seemed too great a blessing for me to enjoy, and so it proved. The landlord of the best inn declined to take in Sam, as he would soil the floor; and as Sam was the only European I had had to talk to for some time back, I went to another house better fitted for men with boots and dogs with dirty feet.

I had looked forward to meeting Mr. Becher at Gensan, as I had heard that he was somewhere in that neighbourhood. He had come to Corea in the spring to superintend the working of the silver mines, which I had visited with Mr. Paterson the preceding year; and when they failed to produce

anything but lead, he had travelled prospecting for richer minerals. Very fortunately he happened to return from a journey the very day I reached Gensan, and we were thus able to compare notes of our experiences.

It was pleasant to meet an old friend, especially when the chances were so much against the meeting; pleasant to meet with the hospitality which the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Wright, showed me; pleasant to see and talk to English women; and pleasant, unmistakably pleasant, to sit on a chair at dinner-time. If to any one it appears rude to mention the last pleasure with the others, let him for seven weeks take all his meals on the floor of a room, and at the end of that time give his opinion on chairs at a dinner-table.

CHAPTER XVII

Gensan market—Trade of port—Banditti—Lava plain—Thanksgiving service—Tiger hunters—Gold washings—More lava—Riflemen—Return to Soul.

THE foreign settlement of Gensan, with a population said to amount to 300 souls, of whom the majority are Japanese and only a sprinkling Chinese or European, lies about a mile from the native town. A market happening to be held in the latter the day after my arrival, Mr. Wright piloted me through its narrow lanes to the busiest parts of the place. Some of the stalls had things for sale that I had not seen elsewhere, such as fox and raccoon skins and the skin of the *ling-yang* (*Antilope* (*hemorhedus*) *caudata*). Large quantities of fish and seaweed, hempen cloth and paper, and a fair number of cattle, showed what were the chief productions of the province besides its grains; and of foreign goods there were the same things as are in demand elsewhere, such as shirtings, lawns, aniline dyes, needles, matches, and kerosene oil.

At that time the gross value of the trade of the

port was only $264,459, of which the imports formed about two-thirds, viz. $160,057; but in 1886 the gross value rose to $978,153, the imports rising to $785,179. To meet the deficiency in exports, gold to the amount of about $80,000 was known to be exported in 1884, besides a considerable quantity which was not reported to the Customs, and in 1886 the Customs Returns showed an advance in the export of gold to $503,296. Strangely enough, during the same period, fish, grass, cloth, and hides were the only principal articles of export in which the returns showed an increase.

After leaving the market we took our guns into the country and had some fair duck-shooting among some ponds near the seashore.

Later on I called on the Chinese Consul, whom I had previously met at Chemulpo. He was living in a Japanese house, in which he had made himself very comfortable, but he complained that he was a Consul without any one to look after. Not only were there no residents in what was marked out as the Chinese settlement, but there were no Chinese anywhere excepting the few servants he had with him.

I had a long talk in the evening with Mr. Wright about the condition of the people. He was highly apprehensive of a famine in consequence of the damage done to the rice crops by continued

rain along the whole line of the coast between Ham-heung and Gensan, but was unaware of the far greater destitution threatening the inhabitants of the plateau north of Ham-heung. On hearing of the wants expressed at Kang-ge and Chang-jin, he at once offered to send some Australian oats to the latter place and a couple of hogs to Kang-ge. His own experience at Gensan made him, however, far from sanguine as to the latter present being turned to any account, as a very fine hog which he had lent to one of the neighbouring magistrates had been returned to him without having been used.

Eventually the difficulties of sending a couple of pigs so far inland prevented their ever being sent, but the oats were despatched to Chang-jin, as I learnt months afterwards by a letter from the magistrate very gracefully acknowledging their receipt, and promising that they should be distributed for seed.

Nov. 3, *Bar.* 29.88.—The Corean Superintendent of Customs very kindly came from his residence at Tek-wön to pay me a call before I left. Though well advanced in years, he was remarkably neat in his person, and I could not help admiring the taste which led him to heighten the refinement of his dress by folds of white lawn worn next the skin, making him appear almost as delicate as an old lady at home.

With many good wishes to speed me on my way, and with many pleasant recollections of the place, I left Gensan for Soul. The road runs nearly due south, across what forms the narrowest neck between sea and sea. As the distance is nearly 200 miles, the claim to the title of peninsula seems hardly well-founded; but as such Corea is almost always regarded, and will probably continue to be, despite my protest.

After walking about six miles through rice-fields bordered by the sea, we struck into the hills, the rocks of which appeared to be volcanic. Thence by a narrow valley to our halting-place, not far from An-byön, where there is rather a famous paper manufactory superintended by the priests of a monastery. From what I heard, the material seemed to be something peculiar, but specimens sent to me later on by Mr. Wright proved the bark used to be that of the *Broussonetia papyrifera.*

At our halting-place we heard many stories of travellers being robbed by banditti, who infested the road, and we met several men who had lost what little they ever had, including even the nets worn over their hair, a robbery which they regarded as betokening extreme savagery. Further on we came across a courier with letters from Soul for Mr. Becher. He was in sore straits, for, though the letters had not been stolen, all his money for the

journey had been taken from him, and he had been travelling on an empty stomach since. The magistrate at An-byön evidently placed some credit



HIGHWAYMEN.

in the rumours, for he sent one of his matchlock men or hunters to protect us so long as we were within his jurisdiction.

Almost the whole afternoon was occupied in

traversing a plain of lava, which lay between the hills. To the eye it appeared quite level, but there was really a slope towards the sea on the north. But little cultivation had been attempted on it, though its area appeared to be about fifteen miles long by three to five miles wide. In those places where streams had worn a way, the banks were quite precipitous, and the whole plain was girt by two rivers, flowing deep below its level at the foot of the mountains. Nearly in the centre of the plain was a little tarn, about 200 yards long, remarkable in my eyes as the only piece of water of the kind which I had seen in Corea.

About nightfall we struck away from the plain to a little village at the foot of the mountains, crossing on our way the dry bed of the stream, which was loaded with large boulders of granite.

Nov. 4, *Bar.* 29.43.—The little village of Ko-san lies at the foot of the range, which forms the watershed of the two coasts; and it was while crossing the pass over this range that robbers were in the habit of attacking travellers. My boy was anxious that every weapon which I possessed should be turned out of its case to meet this danger, but he had to be satisfied with a revolver, in the first chamber of which I took good care that there should be no bullet.

The ascent was very pretty, lying through woods

of oaks, limes, and various other trees, which in their winter garb I could not recognise. Our traps were carried up by bulls,—evidently an arbitrary custom, as there was nothing more difficult about this piece of road than in many places which the ponies had clambered up with their loads on their backs,—and on reaching the crest the business of repacking had in consequence to be gone through. The delay was further lengthened by the drivers having to pay their devotions at a little shrine, where, for a charge of 5 cash each, a thanksgiving for their safety was offered up by the priest in attendance.

The descent on the south side was much more gradual. The mountains, mostly granitic, had a good deal of cover, consisting of oak, scrub, and brushwood. In 1883, and again on several occasions during the journey, I had heard much of the deer-shooting in these mountains; but the hunter who had come from An-byön would not acknowledge anything of the kind. He confined his answers to guarded statements that he was an An-byön man, and did not know this country; but the hunters are by no means restricted in their shooting to their own districts.

This man told me that the hunters are liable to be called out to serve in case of war, and receive during time of peace 300 cash a month, as well as a caddy of powder and ten bullets. As hunters, they

seem to be divided into two quite distinct classes, those who will face a tiger and those who will not; and the more timid ones do not hesitate to decline to try and shoot big game. Beating for the game is regarded as quite a different business, which any man will undertake in company with others, and so long as he thinks that by shouting he can scare a tiger.

When in towns they wear a rough felt hat with a conical crown, and a dark blue cotton robe, which are as ugly as they are inconvenient; but when out after game or on a journey, the dress is as good as one made of cotton can be. The hat and coat are discarded, a short wadded jacket is gathered in tight round the loins; the sleeves are bound round the arms over wadded cuffs, which reach from the wrist to the elbow; in the same way the trousers are bound round the calf of the leg; and a light straw sandal is worn over a long piece of cotton cloth strapped neatly over the foot and ankle. The supplementary portions of the dress are a cord, which serves as a slow match, wound round the left arm; a huge string bag slung over the back; a crane's bill or an antelope's horn slit in two to hold the bullets, which are kept in place by a ring; a tortoise-shaped case of oil-paper or leather for the powder; a flint bag; and lastly, a pipe and tobacco pouch. The matchlock is slung across the shoulders through the

string bag, and looks in considerable danger of being knocked against some hard thing during the day, but it is very seldom injured in this fashion.

Hoping to be able to get some hunters at Hoi-yang, I told the man from An-byön that I should not require him after arriving there, on which he thawed somewhat; but even then he would not give me any hints as to what was the best way to get deer.

Signs of gold-washings were numerous along almost the whole length of the way to Hoi-yang; but I discovered, to my great annoyance, that some gold-washings at Phyöng-kang, of which Mr. Becher had told me, lay some fifteen miles off the road. On close-questioning the interpreter, it turned out that he had given orders not to take the Phyöng-kang route, as he thought the other route the safer. Three thousand men were said to be engaged upon the Phyöng-kang washings, and in the spring of 1885 I went to them specially to test the truth of this report. When I visited the place there were said to be 570 men at work, but the good times had passed by, and according to their report, they were earning little more than would pay for their food.

At Hoi-yang I met with another disappointment as regarded shooting. Not a hunter was forthcoming for any sum of money, and the magistrate was too ill for me to ask for his assistance in pro-

curing men. There was nothing for it, therefore, but to push on.

All the country round Hoi-yang gives evidence of volcanic action, but the greatest fields of lava lie on the road from Soul to Phyöng-kang. The largest of two fields which I saw there I estimated to be at least forty miles long, with only one break of a few hundred yards, and that apparently due to the action of a river.

On leaving Hoi-yang the road continued through low hills, in which there was little that calls for mention; but in the village where we put up for the night, we found the people threshing their corn, though the light had long faded. These energetic people were natives of Si-nam.

Nov. 5, *Bar.* 28.80.—Almost immediately on leaving the village we entered a plain of lava, which extended about fourteen miles. The Hoi-yang River (one of the main sources of the Im-jin Gang) had cut a way through this, leaving perpendicular walls of rock 100 feet high, but the hardness of the surface lava was again proven by the absence of cultivation in the plain.

At this point we joined the route which I had already traversed the preceding winter, and continued on it as far as Keum-söng. Pushing on a few miles past the town, we put up for the night in a very small inn, where the ponies

were so closely packed that kicking was out of the question.

Nov. 6, *Bar.* 29.05.—On the road we met 300 soldiers who had been drilled in Soul and taught to handle foreign rifles. They were then on their way to Ham-heung to impart instruction to their fellows. They were finely-built men, but in most lamentably bad condition. Some were riding bulls or cows; others were limping wearily along; and a more unwarlike lot of men could hardly have been got together in Corea.

As my stock of cash was completely exhausted, I had to ask for one last loan at Kim-hoa, where we had received so much kindness the previous winter. The magistrate had since then been changed, and the new-comer was away in Soul, but his steward sent me the money I asked for at once.

Nov. 7, *Bar.* 29.61.—On crossing the boundary of the Kang-won Province, a little way beyond Phoun-fjen, we were received by two soldiers, who had been sent to protect me, though I was then almost within treaty limits of Soul.

When previously travelling along this road, I had hardly appreciated its beauty fully, but on this occasion I was very much struck with the grandeur of the peaks that lie to the north of Soul, and the nearer we got to them, the more I was impressed by them.

Nov. 8, *Bar.* 29.84.—The pony-drivers were determined not to be late for the city gates, and though we had only twenty-six miles to cover, begged to be allowed to start before daylight. The result was that we were positively on the road at 5.15 A.M., but we were not the first up. Two men were sitting on a dunghill by the roadside smoking their morning pipe, which doubtless they considered the best of the day.

The morning was intensely cold, and I walked on at a smart pace to keep myself warm. Then finding myself some distance ahead of the ponies, I pushed on to Soul, and arrived at the Consulate just in time for tiffin. The pleasure of being back among friends was enough to atone, and more than atone, for all the discomforts of the journey.

After being six weeks together, it was not without regret on all sides that our travelling party dispersed; and one fellow whom I had noticed as specially attentive to his pony I took into my own service. His delight on hearing the wages offered was very gratifying, and after a week's rest he led my ponies overland to Fusan, on the south-east coast, to which port I had been ordered. My cook had completely recovered from his depression while at Gensan, where some countrymen of his had given him a dinner that made him quite happy.

The iniquities of Kim, the interpreter, were,

however, too many to be passed over, and when it turned out that even after returning to Soul he had extorted one more squeeze from the pony-drivers, he was dismissed summarily and threatened with the law—a threat which sent him off forthwith to Wi-ju.

After a few days' rest in Soul, I returned to Chemulpo, and sent off my furniture and servants to Fusan by steamer, where I intended to join them, after a short visit to Shanghai.

CHAPTER XVIII

Dinner at the Post-Office—Attempted assassination—Murders in the palace—Popular excitement—Collision between Chinese and Japanese troops—Japanese Legation burnt—Collapse of conspiracy—Its object.

DURING the summer of 1884 the first step had been taken towards the introduction of a government post in Corea, by the establishment of a daily service between Soul and Chemulpo.

To celebrate the opening of the new post-office in Soul, a dinner was given there on the 4th December by the Postmaster-General, Hong Yong Sik, at which several of the leading statesmen of Corea and most of the foreign officials residing in Soul were present.

Towards the close of the dinner an alarm of fire was raised, and Min Yong Ik, whose duties as general-in-command of the right battalion of the palace guard required his presence at the fire, left the room. The dinner party, after watching the fire for a few minutes, resumed their seats, when almost immediately Min Yong Ik returned, his face

and clothing covered with blood. As afterwards appeared, he had seven severe sword wounds, four on the arms and legs, but the worst on the side of the head, neck, and back.

The other Corean officials left forthwith, and after attending in some degree to his wounds, M. von Möllendorff took the wounded man to his house, while the foreigners made their way home.

The Postmaster-General, with two of his guests, viz. Kim Ok Kiun and Pak Yong Hio, who together had planned this assassination, hastened to the palace, and persuaded the king to remove to a smaller building, where he would be, they said, in greater safety. Letters then were sent to the Japanese minister as from the king, asking the minister to come to the palace with his guard of soldiers, numbering about 180 men. After three messages of this kind had been received, M. Takezoye consented, and a Japanese guard was stationed at the palace.

Meanwhile the three generals, who with Min Yong Ik commanded the troops stationed in the capital, were summoned to the palace and there murdered. With them died Min Thai Ho, a brother of the queen by adoption, and Min Yong Mok, who, as President of the Foreign Office in 1883, had signed the Treaty negotiated by Sir H. Parkes. Smaller men were not spared on account

of their comparative insignificance. The king had sent his chief eunuch to inquire whether the danger said to threaten his majesty was real, and when the man returned with the report that it was not, he was cut down in the king's presence.

General Foote, the United States Minister, Captain Zembsch, the German Commissioner, and Mr. Aston visited the king on the morning of the 5th. His majesty had invited them to come to the palace for security, with their families and staffs, but this invitation they had thought it prudent to decline, and after a short interview they retired. At this time the conspirators had installed themselves in the posts of the men whom they had murdered. Rumours of the murders had reached the people, though not as yet known in the Legations, and the streets were crowded. The mob, not understanding how Japanese soldiers came to be on guard at the gates of their king's palace, were becoming highly infuriated with the Japanese, and in another quarter the same cause was leading to more serious trouble.

After the outbreak of 1882 had been put down by China, a garrison had been left by her at Soul, as some said to assure the king's position, as others said to give China a foothold in the country. The commandant of these troops, when he learnt what was occurring in the palace almost under his eyes,

was at a loss how to act. The Chinese Commissioner was advised by the foreign representatives to prevent any collision between the Japanese and Chinese, and during the 5th none occurred; but on the afternoon of the 6th, the commandant demanded admission to the king, and, according to the Japanese account, advanced upon the palace gate before time had allowed of his letter being answered. The result was a collision between the two bodies of troops, which developed into a severe engagement, in which some of the Corean troops joined.

While this was occurring, the king made his escape at the back of the palace, and the Japanese guard then withdrew to their own Legation. During the day several Japanese had been killed in different parts of the city, and the excitement continued to increase. Most of the foreigners had collected in the United States Legation, where arrangements were made for the defence of the place if necessary; but, excepting that some arrows were shot into the grounds, it was not in any way threatened, though one or two houses occupied by foreigners in other parts of the city were plundered.

The position of the Japanese in their Legation became so dangerous by the morning of the 7th, that M. Takezoye determined to proceed to Chemulpo with his staff and soldiers and the Japanese men and women who had taken shelter in the

Legation. No determined attempt seems to have been made to prevent his leaving the city, but two cannon-shots were fired, and there was some desultory musket-firing, which the Japanese returned.

The journey to Chemulpo on that cold winter's night must have been intensely trying, and the sadness of the journey was increased by the sight of the flames bursting from the Japanese Legation, which had been completed only a few months previously, and was that night burnt to the ground.

With the entrance of the Chinese troops into the palace, the conspirators' success was at an end. Of the three leaders one was summarily put to death by the Chinese general, another is said to have been actually torn to pieces by the mob, and the third, Kim Ok Kiun, escaped to Japan. Of the subordinates, a few were killed at the time, some escaped to Japan, and others were put to death after trial.

It is difficult to procure any trustworthy statistics in Corea, but, according to common report, over 300 persons lost their lives in the three days during which the reign of disorder lasted. Of this number about thirty were Japanese, thirty Chinese, and the rest Coreans, though the last-named took little active part in the fighting. But the harmful effects of the conspiracy were not confined to the deaths which had resulted from its work. At a time when Corea

stood most in need of good counsel, she found herself almost paralysed by the loss of six of her leading statesmen. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kim Hong Jip, was almost the only Corean of note left. The king naturally in this crisis turned to the foreign representatives for assistance, and asked them to follow M. Takezoye to Chemulpo, and convey to him his majesty's earnest desire to maintain friendly relations with Japan. To this they consented, and on the 10th General Foote, Captain Zembsch, and Mr. Aston proceeded to Chemulpo for the purpose.

And now, having advanced to this stage, it will naturally be asked, Who were the conspirators, and what was the object which they had in view? The first question is easy of answering. Besides the three men who have been mentioned, there was only one other of note, viz. So Kwong Pom, and their following was almost confined to fourteen military students, who had been trained in Japan.

The object of the conspiracy is more difficult to define, except that it was undoubtedly intended to weaken the queen's influence, and to force Corea into adopting a more progressive policy. All the leaders had been much exposed to foreign influences abroad, and two of them, viz. So Kwong Pom and Kim Ok Kiun, were men of considerable ability. Having found themselves very popular among

foreigners, both in Corea and Japan, it is probable that they counted on foreign influence to further their ill-digested plans, and maintain them in power if they could secure it for a moment. It was doubtless with this purpose that the request was made, which purported to come from the king, for protection by the Japanese guard. If the other foreign representatives also had accepted the invitation to seek shelter in the palace, the conspirators' position would have been greatly strengthened towards both the Chinese and their own countrymen. As to the means which they employed to effect their end, it is unlikely that they knew how assassination and murder for political ends would be regarded. In their own country these acts seem to have been part of the regular procedure towards overthrowing a ministry. Min Yong Ik's father had been blown up by a gunpowder plot some ten years previously; Min Yong Ik himself had, in 1882, to flee the country, in the disguise of a Buddhist priest, in consequence of the attack directed by the ex-regent upon the queen and her family; and in 1884 there seemed to the conspirators a good opportunity of following up the blow which had been delivered two years previously, and of thus finally destroying the power possessed by the queen and her family.

The subsequent events throw more light on the character of the Japanese and Chinese than on that

of the Coreans. With the utmost promptitude Japan despatched a fleet with an armed force to Chemulpo; and Count Inouye, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, was sent with full powers to obtain redress for the murder of his countrymen and the destruction of their property. The Corean Government was anxious to atone for the injuries which had been inflicted, and on the 9th January a treaty was signed, providing for the punishment of the murderers, compensation for the injury to property, and an apology to the Japanese Government.

The question which had arisen between the Governments of Japan and China out of the conflict between the troops of the two countries in Soul still remained to be settled. Feeling on the subject ran so high in Japan that Count Inouye took the negotiations in hand himself. After somewhat protracted discussions with Li Hung-chang, the Governor-General of Chih-li, an instrument was signed at Tientsin in April 1885, under which both powers undertook to withdraw their troops from Corea within four months, and in case of any rebellion or disturbance occurring in Corea, which rendered either China or Japan desirous to send troops thither, to give notice of the intention beforehand to the other power.

CHAPTER XIX

Effects of conspiracy—Removal from palace—Procession—Further alarms—Consideration shown by king—Simple diet of people—Buddhist monasteries—Woods—Breeding stations—Old buildings near Soul.

DURING the excitement which prevailed in the capital, while the conspirators had the king in their power and afterwards on their overthrow, many Corean buildings had been destroyed by the mob. Among them were the post-office, where the first blow had been struck, and the house of Kim Ok Kiun, the chief conspirator. Of the Japanese Legation, the most prominent edifice in Soul, only the gate-house and the shell of the main building were left.

The ruins of the houses told their own story, but it was only by degrees that one heard of the injuries inflicted on the members of the households. Some ghastly tragedies had taken place. From shame and sorrow at his son's crime, one fine old statesman had taken poison after giving it to his family. The ladies belonging to the conspirators'

families, according to Corean law, were destined to banishment to some frontier town, with the probability of foul degradation. Some were spared this fate, through the king's great clemency, but imprisonment, separation from their relatives, anxiety, and loss of means, awaited all.

The palace, with its memories, had grown so hateful to the king, that early in March he abandoned it for another palace in the western part of the town. The move was made with great pomp, all the ladies of the king's house and all his household taking part in it, and the furniture of the palace being carried in the train.

The streets on the route of the procession were thronged with people. Numbers of women were hidden behind the paper windows of the houses commanding the scene, but even in the streets a large number were collected, all of whom had the green mantle, which usually veils the face, folded neatly and placed on the head. Hundreds of little children, in their little pink jackets, were being carried in men's arms, or were seated on their shoulders.

About half an hour before the procession arrived, the causeway in the centre of the street was cleared by soldiers. One or two eunuchs on horseback, and in full court dress, passed by, and were followed by soldiers bearing blue or yellow flags, and by some

mounted footmen clad in armour, densely wadded and thickly-studded with large-headed nails.

Then came the procession, headed by foot-soldiers. The officers in full uniform wore throat-lashes of amber and cornelian beads, and hats



ROYAL PERSONAGE IN HORSE LITTER.

decked with red plush and peacocks' feathers. Behind them came men bearing stands for arms, and kettledrums, and then the general, wearing his sword-proof helmet and armour of crimson and gold, while at his side were borne a trident, and the flag of Corea, a tiger on a plain ground. Military officers, and a guard of eighty men, preceded a

chair carried by twenty-eight men, in which the ancestral tablets were said to be placed.

The next division consisted of soldiers, in crimson with gold trimmings, beating drums, eunuchs and officials, and a strong body of Chinese troops, whose buglers were not silent, and behind them the king in an open chair, lined with fox-skins. The chair was roomy, and had wings at the side to keep off the sun and rain. On seeing foreigners take off their hats, the king stopped his chair and bowed, and the same compliment was afterwards paid by the crown prince. No sign of respect, excepting perfect silence, seemed to be paid by the crowd to their sovereign, and after a brief pause he passed on. Behind him followed more Chinese troops, more eunuchs and officials, and some curious insignia on poles, including a leopard-skin cap and an umbrella frame.

The crown prince's retinue was somewhat smaller, but otherwise almost identical, but his dress was purple with gold embroidery, instead of red and gold like the king's.

Some soldiers armed with matchlocks and in green uniform preceded an empty chair, behind which was a woman carrying a cardboard box on her head. A large red umbrella and a band of native musicians heralded the queen-mother in a red chair with green blinds, which were drawn.

Behind followed some girls on horseback, riding astride. Their dress was of green, blue, or yellow jackets, white trousers, and an enormous head-dress, consisting of huge coils of hair, forming a platform on which rested a paper basket.



DANCING WOMEN.

The crown princess was similarly escorted, and the procession wound up with hunters carrying their matchlocks, cavalry in armour, lictors, and some native troops armed with Peabody-Martini rifles.

Nothing occurred to disturb the procession, but an officer was thrown by his pony almost at my

feet. The helmet saved him from all hurt, and as there seemed no likelihood of being able to remount the pony, he led him on, seeming somewhat pleased at the change of position.

After the settlement of the difficulty with Japan, and the king's removal from the scene of the conspirators' murders, it might have been expected that the situation would have been regarded as peaceful; but the air was charged with rumours of war. Count Inouye's mission to China was popularly regarded as presaging a war between China and Japan, to be fought in Corea, with Corea as the prize for the victors. Thousands of people left the capital for the country in consequence of this scare, and there was a constant stream through the city gates of coolies carrying the household goods of these timorous folk.

The habits of the Coreans lend themselves greatly to support these alarms. The people are immense talkers, and there is little that occurs in any public office which is not known to every clerk and servant connected with it. There are invariably pipe-bearers and other servants present in the room during any conversation between officials. If the servants are instructed to withdraw, there is only a paper partition to secure privacy. As to documents there seems to be no secrecy. Any man in the room will look over his master's shoulder to see what he is

reading without fear of being rebuked. Further, as they are not men of business, the time that is spent in discussing any question of importance is inordinately long, and the chances of its nature remaining a secret are proportionately decreased. It is no matter for wonder, therefore, that alarms are constantly propagated on the smallest foundation, and that occasionally they form a real source of danger to the state.

Throughout all the troubles and alarms, the king seemed always to have time to think of the foreigners with whom he had been brought in contact. At one time he would send to inquire after Mr. Aston, who had been driven to Japan by ill-health, consequent on exposure to severe cold during the rebellion; at another, he had a kindly message of condolence on the death of Sir H. Parkes, whom he had learnt to regard as one of the most sincere friends of Corea; at another, he had some present to send, which he thought might be welcome to people out of reach of all supplies from home.

Nothing better than these presents could show the extreme simplicity of the country, and I give a full list of one which I received.

100 medicated fruits (balls composed of various drugs mixed with honey).
600 dried clams.

6 strings of flat persimmons.
4 bushels of raw chestnuts.
4 „ „ walnuts.
4 „ „ pine seeds.
2 „ „ dried chestnuts.
2 „ „ salisburia seeds.
2 live pigs.
10 „ fish.
200 sea-slugs.
400 eggs.

The manner in which eggs are packed in Corea seems worth mentioning. They are laid end to end in bands of wheat straw. Between each pair a straw is twisted, and thus a string of twenty eggs can be fastened together, which are well protected from injury, and which can be carried in the hand, thrown over a pony's back, or hung from a rafter.

During the late winter and early spring I made two or three shooting excursions, on which I was able to correct mistaken impressions which I had formed regarding the influence of religion on the people, and the extent of the woods still standing.

Buddhism has been under a ban during the present dynasty, which was founded at the end of the fourteenth century, but there is hardly a mountain valley off the main roads in which there is not a Buddhist temple. The wilder the country, the more frequent are the monasteries, and often on the side

of a bare cliff we came across a figure of Buddha carved in relief on the rock.

A Roman Catholic bishop, with whom I once had an opportunity of speaking on the subject, drew my attention to the fetich worship of the Coreans as manifested in almost every village in the offerings presented to some particularly fine tree, or in the heaps of stones deposited "with a spit" by travellers on the tops of mountain passes; and again, in the immunity of snakes, and in the Sanskrit writings laid on corpses in their coffins.

As to the woods, though none were visible from the roads, there were vast tracts among the hills, to which only woodcutters and beasts of prey had access. The undergrowth among the woods was generally cleared by fires in the early spring, of which I have seen as many as nine on a single night, and the prevalence of these fires added to the seclusion of the woods, as the risk of being burnt down was too great to admit of cottages being built among them.

I regret that I never had time to visit any of the horse-breeding stations, which are of sufficient importance to be marked in all the maps of the country, and outside of which it is a rare thing to see a mare. But in a place where distractions were rare, and communications with the outside world so scarce that even a report of the entire destruction of

Lord Wolseley's force in the Soudan, which reached me on the 3d March, was not positively disproven until the 1st April, one naturally sought eagerly for subjects of local interest.

The three chief of these were a small pagoda in Soul, a stone bridge outside of it, and a tablet commemorating events of great historical interest, which stands about eight miles east of Soul.

Of the date of the pagoda I could learn nothing except that it stood on its present site before Soul was the capital of the country. Built of stone, and covered with carvings in relief, there was much that promised rich reward for a careful study of the structure, but the surroundings were so foul that it was not possible to stay long near it.

The bridge, named Sal-kuogi-tari, is also of stone, and consists of large slabs of stone laid flat upon piers, of which there are twenty-one. Excepting that it is, as far as I know, the only work of the kind in Corea, it is not remarkable.

The tablet is of marble, about fifteen feet high, five feet broad, and fifteen inches deep, and stands on a granite tortoise, twelve feet long, seven feet broad, and three and a half feet high. On the south face is an inscription in Manchu, and on the north face a long inscription in Chinese, which shows that it was erected by the King of Corea, to record the generous treatment which he

had received at the hands of the founders of the present dynasty in China during invasions which he had himself provoked. The inscription, which is of great length, closes with a poem, briefly recording the events of the invasion and the emperor's clemency.

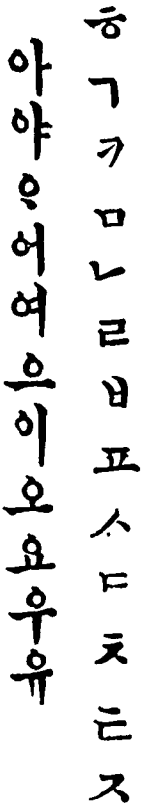
CHAPTER XX

Corean language—Alphabet—Euphonic changes—Affinity to Japanese—Loose spelling—Chinese the official language—Resemblances between Corean and Cantonese.

In the *Grammaire Coréenne*, published by "Les Missionnaires de Corée de la société des missions étrangères de Paris," Corean is shown to belong to the family of Tartar (Turanian) languages, but to what group is a question which they regard as awaiting determination. At the same time the authors allude to the resemblance between the grammar of Corean and that of the Dravidian languages, a resemblance which is also found in certain words common to the two. The article concludes: "L'étude approfondie de ces analogies jetterait un grand jour sur quelques points importants de l'histoire primitive des peuples indous, et sur diverses questions ethnographiques encore peu connues."

The language is alphabetical, and contains eleven vowels and fourteen consonants. These being purely phonetic, to read and write Corean are considered feats so easy as not to require teaching.

The alphabet, as has been pointed out by Mr. Aston, is scientific in its structure, the labials, dentals, palatals, gutturals, and laryngeals having each a base characteristic of the class.



COREAN ALPHABET.

The alphabet contains eleven vowels, corresponding to a, e, o, ou, eu, i, ă, ya, ye, yo, and you; and fourteen consonants, corresponding to k, m, n, p, r, s, t, tj, ng, hk, hp, ht, tch, and h. Of the consonants some are differently read according to their position in the syllable, thus that which is read *s* as an initial becomes *t* as a final, *e.g. kat* not *kas;* and *r* is read *l* when it is a final, *e.g. mal* not *mar*, or when it is followed by a consonant in the same syllable, *e.g. talk* not *tark.*

Of other euphonic changes the most notable are k into ng before m, n, r, or l, *e.g.* mok-ma-ra-ta is read mong-ma-ra-ta; and p is read as m, when occurring before n in certain honorific parts of the verb, *e.g.* ep-nă-i-ta is read em-nă-i-ta.

Of the agglutinative languages, that to which it is most nearly akin is Japanese, and especially is this the case in the use of honorific forms of verbs, in order to define the respective social positions of the persons speaking, spoken of, and addressed. There are said to be nearly a dozen ways of saying

"he does," and the same changes are equally rung on other verbs. With so many ways of saying the same thing, foreigners are much exposed to committing faults either of undue self-assertion or of unnecessary self-abasement, and not unnaturally native interpreters are in consequence much used as the medium for conversation.

A drawback, attending upon the little attention paid to the teaching of this language, is that the spelling has become very loose. Even in well-printed books, the faults of pronunciation committed by a careless speaker are perpetuated, and the final and initial letters of syllables are assigned to the wrong syllable. In a polysyllabic language, every syllable of which has its own signification, the meaning of the whole word is gathered from the syllables of which it is compounded; but for foreigners, at any rate, the component parts are likely to be misleading rather than to form a clue, if there is any carelessness in the separation of the syllables. "Cart-horse" and "hand-spun" are words easily understood by students of English; but the same words if written "car-thorse" and "hands-pun" may give exercise to the brain for many an hour before their meaning is unravelled, and if a dictionary is appealed to, the chance of getting on the right track is very slight.

Owing to the great ease with which Coreans

can learn to read and write their own language, as a written language, it is regarded with great contempt, and its use is in great measure confined to women and uneducated men. In official documents it is seldom employed except in proclamations to the people or on business relating purely to the court. The literature is exceedingly small, but it is worth noting that circulating libraries on an exceedingly petty scale do exist in the capital.

The language which virtually has taken its place in print and correspondence is Chinese, but the style of composition, though correct, is extremely antiquated, and Chinese words bear as a meaning, not that of the present day, but that attached to them a thousand years since. At that time China had immense influence on the country, and its effect is seen in the present day, not only in the value attached to Chinese works, of some of which better editions have been published in Corea than in China itself, but even in the dress. The peculiar cap and belt, now worn by Coreans at court, are the same as that which was introduced from China in the Tang dynasty (618-905 A.D.)

When reading Chinese aloud, Coreans read it in Corean to a kind of chant, thus making a species of *viva voce* translation, which is worth bringing to the notice of those dons who are desirous of adding to the horrors of examinations.

The influence of Chinese on Corean signs is evident in the numerous words derived from Chinese. Of the nouns many are almost identical in sound with modern Cantonese; others have but altered a consonant; and others have added a final consonant. In the following table instances are given of the more common changes:—

Chinese.			
Pekingese.	Cantonese.	Corean.	English.
fu	fu	pou	father
fan	fan	pen	to turn
fu	fuk	pok	good fortune
mu	muk	mok	wood
fa	fat	pip	rule
chia	ka (old form, kat)	kap	price
yao	ngok	yak	medicine
pai	pak	paik	100
pei	pak	pouk	north
i	i	ek	100,000
li	lai	ryei	propriety
lai	loi	rai	come
liu	luk	ryouk	six
wan	man	man	10,000
liang	leung	nyang	ounce
nü	nu	nye	woman
yin	yam	am	female
nan	nam	nam	south
chin	keum	keum	gold
san	sam	sam	three
hsin	sun	sil	belief
pa	pat	hpal	eight
ma	ma	mal	horse
i	yat	il	one

The above examples are intended simply to illustrate some of the changes commonly met with,

as well as of the similarities which strike the ear of those who have even the faintest smattering of the two languages.

It is frequently the case that synonyms derived from native roots exist for words which are evidently borrowed from China, but to this there is one remarkable exception, in the case of family names, which, as far as I know, are all purely Chinese.

APPENDIX

ITINERARY OF ROUTE DESCRIBED IN CHAPTERS VII.-XVII.

Date.	Name of Place.	Distance.	Number of Houses.
1884		Li.	
Sept. 27	Ko yang	40	280
	Pha ju	40	200
28	Chang dan . . .	40	400
	Kai song . . .	40	7000
29	Teuk tjen kori . .	50	50
	Phyöng san . . .	50	200 (?)
30	Ka won tan . . .	40	40
	So heung . . .	40	1000
Oct. 1	Keum shu . . .	30	100
	Pong san . . .	40	400
2	Hwang ju . . .	40	3000
	Chung hwa . . .	50	700
3	Phyöng yang . . .	50	6500
6	Sun an	50	150 (?)
7	Suk chhön . . .	60	400
	An ju	60	3000
8	Pak chhön . . .	30	1000
	Ka san	20	400
9	Chung ju . . .	60	600
	Kwak san . . .	30	300
10	Sön chhön . . .	50	600
	Chhol san . . .	45	300 (?)
11	Ma wei yuan (Chinese name)	50	80 (?)
	Wi ju	60	5000 (?)
14	Yen bong . . .	50	30 (?)
	Chhöng söng . . .	30	80 (?)

ITINERARY OF ROUTE—*Continued.*

Date.	Name of Place.	Distance.	Number of Houses.
1884		Li.	
Oct. 15	Phal mang wön . .	40	40
	Chhang söng . . .	40	300
16	Chhang ju . . .	40	130
	Pyök dan . . .	40	200 (?)
17	Pyök dong . . .	50	400
	Ping chhang . . .	20	40 (?)
	Wu mien chhang . . .	50	100 (?)
18	Teuk chhang . . .	50	30
	Chhu san . . .	30	600
19	Sia a tjan . . .	40	15
	Wi wön	50	190
20	Tung shang . . .	40	25
	Hat tje tjang . . .	30	60 (?)
21	Ko ha pang . . .	70	20 (?)
	Kang ge	40	1000
23	Morai pou ri . . .	40	15
	A te kai	30	7
24	Tsao tek tai . . .	80	30
25	Chang jin . . .	40	150
	Teuk sil tung . . .	55	40 (?)
26	Tjen ö su	50	20
	Ku tjen	20	50
27	Sa seu	40	50
	Kot te su . . .	40	40
28	Chung nyong . . .	35	15
	Wong bon i . . .	25	52
29	Ku tjang . . .	35	50
	Ham heung . . .	40	3000
30	Chöng phyöng . .	50	500
	Ko san	35	100
31	Yöng heung . . .	40	1000
	Ko wön	40	300 (?)
	So rai wön . . .	20	30
Nov. 1	Mun chhön . . .	30	(?)
	Ti kyeng . . .	15	30
	Gensan	35	300 foreigners' houses
3	Nam san . . .	50	80 (?)
	Ko san	50	80 (?)

ITINERARY OF ROUTE—*Continued.*

Date.	Name of Place.	Distance.	Number of Houses.
1884		Li.	
Nov. 4	Hoi yang . . .	50	220
	Si nan	30	40 (?)
5	Chhang do . . .	40	80 (?)
	Keum söng . . .	30	200
	Tchin mo ki . . .	15	15
6	Kim hwa . . .	35	200 (?)
	Phoun tjen . . .	50	50 (?)
7	Man si ta ri . . .	50	80 (?)
	Sol mo rou . . .	40	30 (?)
8	Soul	80	

THE END

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